

# ALL ABOUT HISTORY

**"People think they don't like history. They're wrong"**

Dan Snow on how he's bringing the past to life



## CELTS: CULT OF DEATH

From headhunting to human sacrifice, discover their macabre rituals



**MAD  
MURDER  
PLOTS**

15 assassinations that will blow your mind

ISABELLA OF CASTILE'S

# SPANISH INQUISITION

Inside the tyrant queen's torture chambers and the merciless fury that forced thousands to burn at the stake

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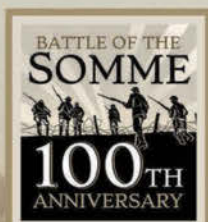
ISSUE 38

## Weird world of airships

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a flammable flying basket

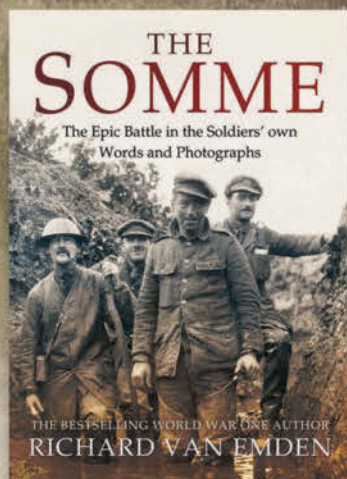






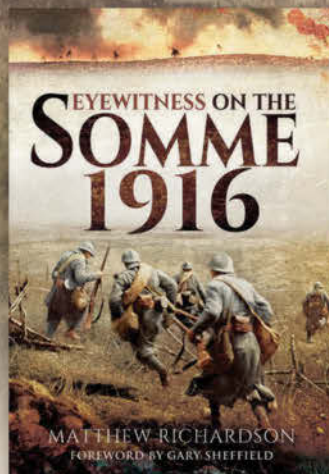
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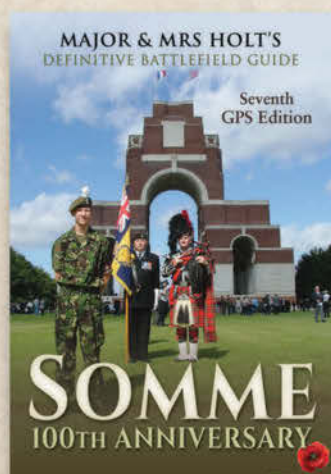
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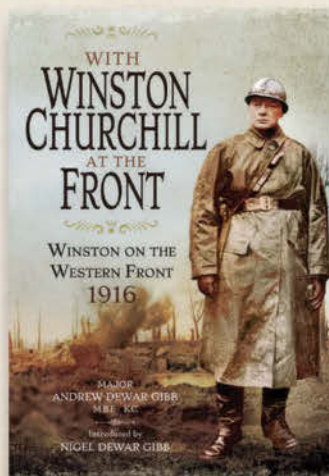
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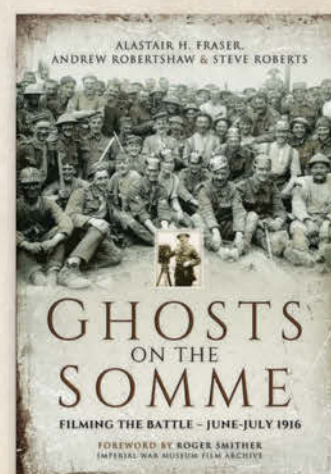
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Discover the airship's wacky past with our timeline feature on page 54

# Welcome

The Spanish Inquisition is remembered for being one of the most brutal episodes in European history. Established by Queen Isabella of Castile to rid her kingdom of heretics, its gory details continue to provoke morbid curiosity, from the terrifying torture devices to the slow deaths suffered by those burned at the stake. Yet Isabella is considered one of Spain's greatest rulers, having introduced reforms that drastically reduced the crime rate and put the country's finances back on track. On page 28, we put the inquisitor queen on trial to find out if she was as much of a tyrant as we first thought.

For those of you who haven't yet got your hands on our new sister magazine **History Of Royals** yet, you can still take advantage

of our three issues for £1 offer. Simply visit [www.imaginesubs.co.uk/Royals](http://www.imaginesubs.co.uk/Royals) and enter code NEW161XT. And if that wasn't enough, we're also very excited to announce the launch of yet ANOTHER history mag! Turn to page 21 to find out more.



*Alicea*  
**Alicea Francis**  
Editor

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**Inside the Führerbunker**  
Take a detailed look around Hitler's hidden underground lair, which was the site of his and his new wife's suicide as the Red Army closed in and Berlin fell.

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**The Wild West**  
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**Good vibrations**  
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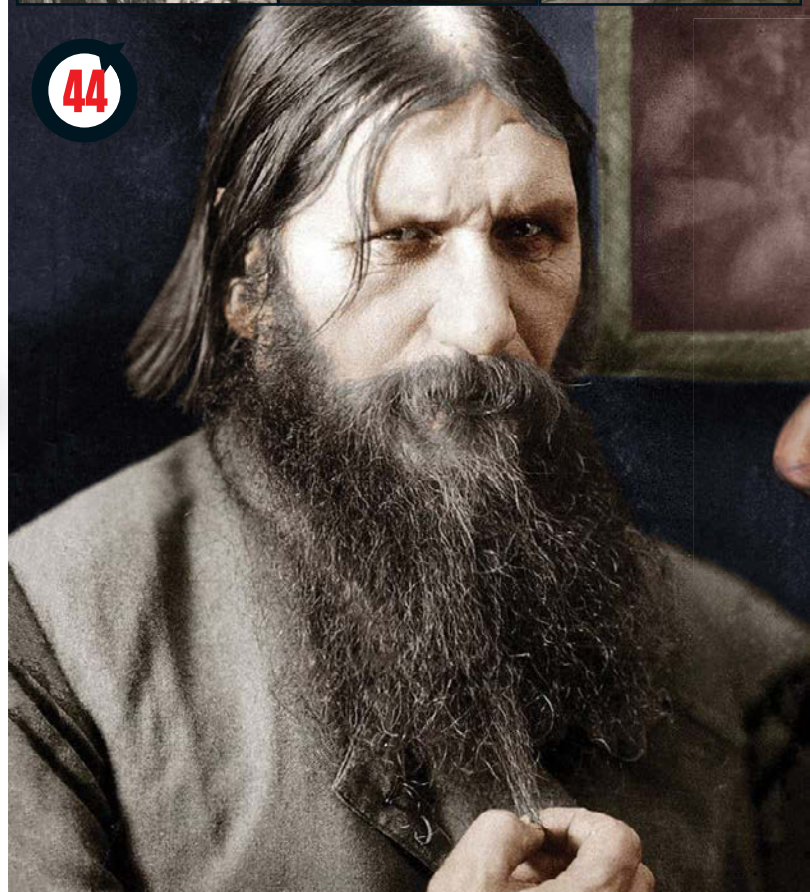
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# ENJOYED THE MAGAZINE? SUBSCRIBE & SAVE 25%

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## HISTORY IN COLOUR

### CONNECTING THE EMPIRE

Hanno, a four-engine biplane, is refuelled at Samakh, Tiberius (now Israel), while serving Imperial Airlines – one of Britain's first commercial airlines – despite the aircraft's ramshackle appearance, the biplanes were remarkably safe and comfortable, with roomy seating for passengers and even serving hot meals. They were also famous for showing the first on-board film, *The Lost World*, in 1925.

1931









## HISTORY IN PICTURES

### THE ORIGINAL ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE

Members of the unionist militia the Ulster Volunteers take part in a drill, ready to defend the province from the imposition of Home Rule. Many Ulster Protestants feared being governed by a Catholic-majority government in Dublin. In 1912, they formed a militia; two years later, they smuggled 20,000 German rifles into Larne.

1914







A black and white photograph of a gas-proof pram, a dark wooden box on wheels with a glass panel on top, positioned in front of a white picket fence. The pram has a light-colored strap across its side. The background shows the fence and a building with vertical wooden slats.

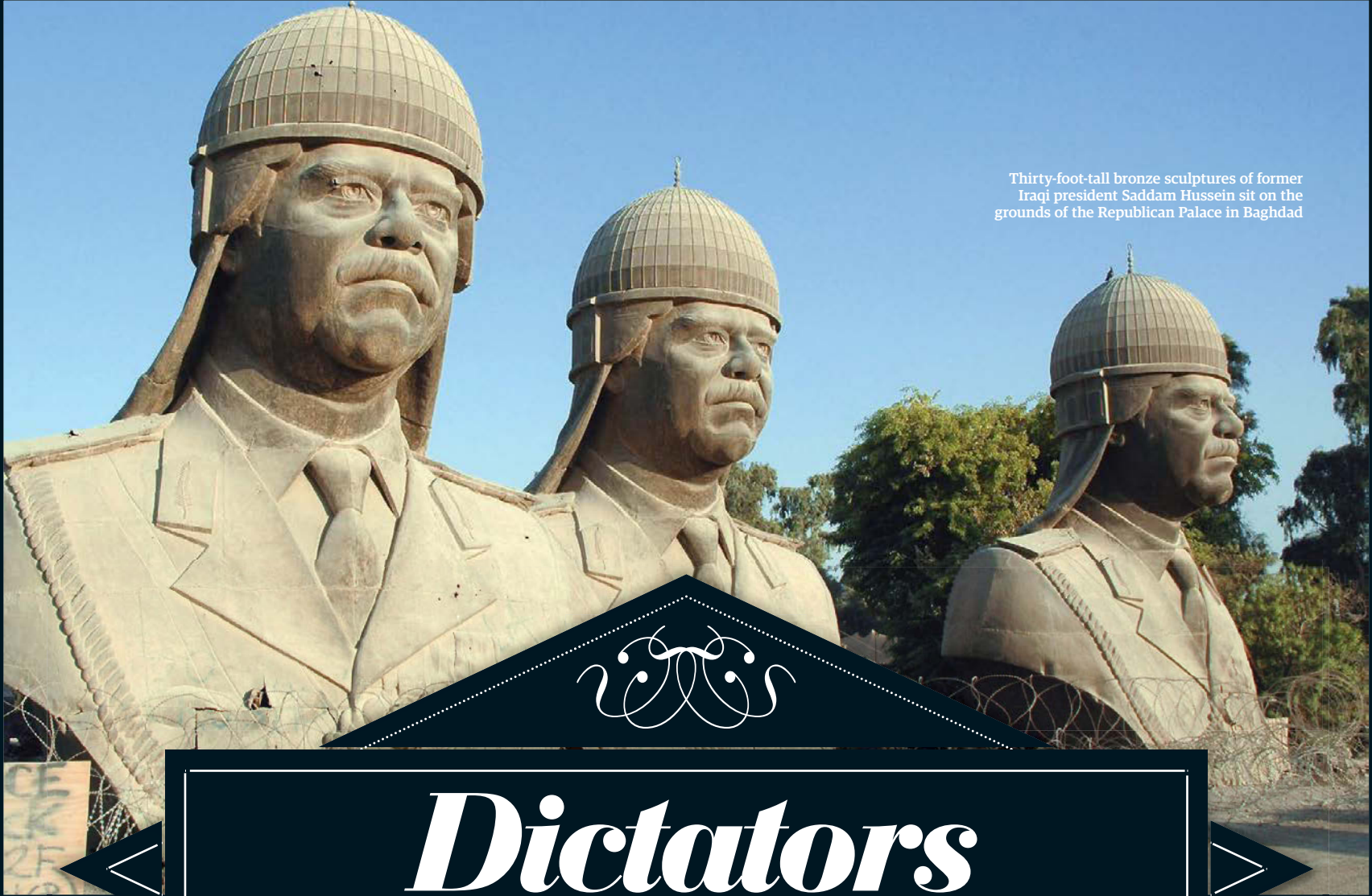
## HISTORY IN PICTURES

### THE GAS-PROOF PRAM

A mother walks her baby in a gas-resistant pram, designed by FW Mills in the years leading up to WWII. The threat of gas attacks was imminent, and gas masks were distributed to everyone in Britain, including babies. This pram was an alternative, and had a lid with a glass panel and a gas filter on the top. An old motor horn bulb on the back expelled stale air and sucked in new to ensure fresh ventilation.

1938



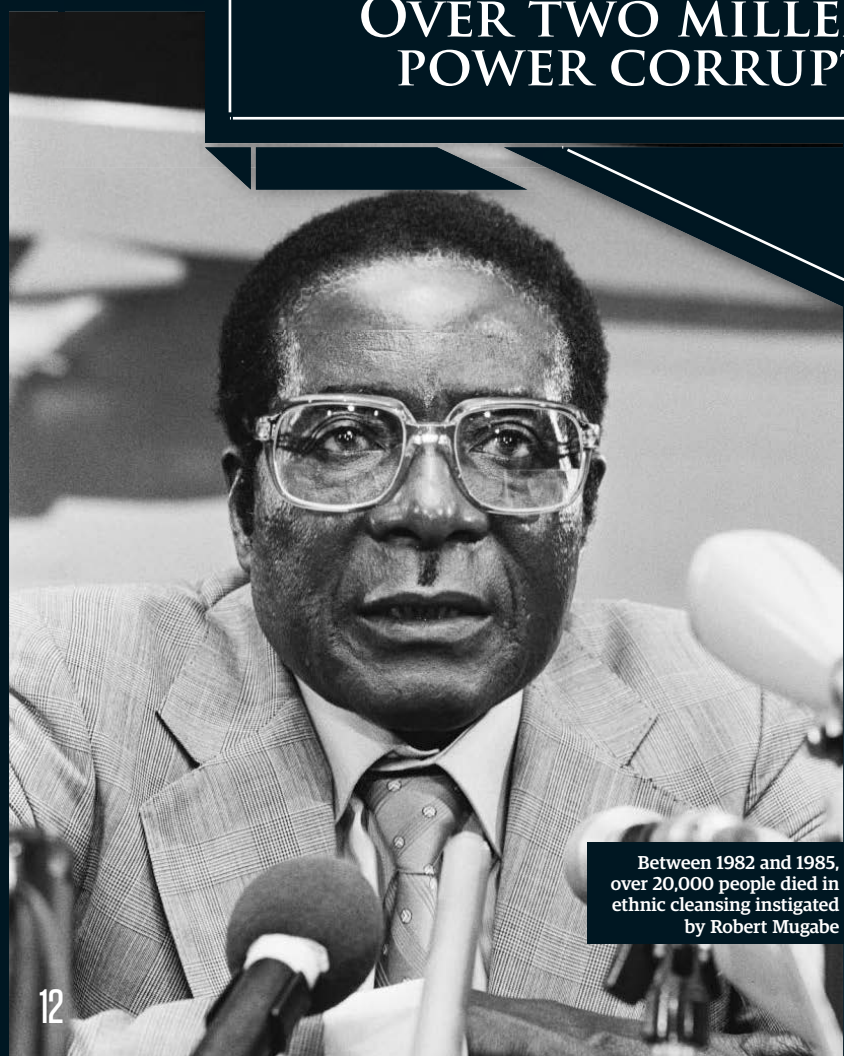


Thirty-foot-tall bronze sculptures of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein sit on the grounds of the Republican Palace in Baghdad

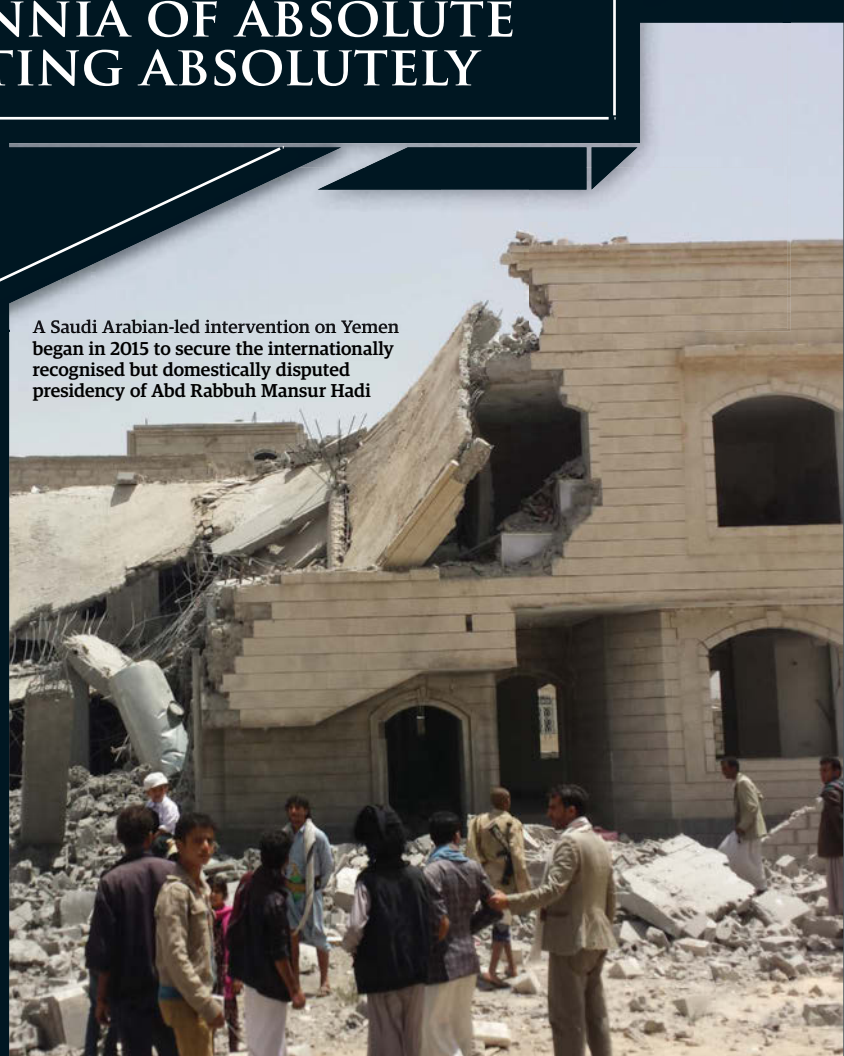


# *Dictators*

OVER TWO MILLENNIA OF ABSOLUTE  
POWER CORRUPTING ABSOLUTELY

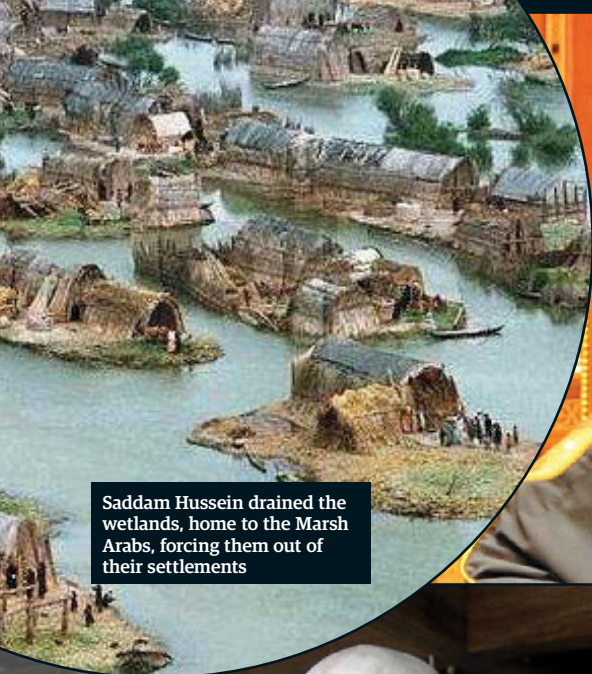


Between 1982 and 1985, over 20,000 people died in ethnic cleansing instigated by Robert Mugabe



A Saudi Arabian-led intervention on Yemen began in 2015 to secure the internationally recognised but domestically disputed presidency of Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi





Saddam Hussein drained the wetlands, home to the Marsh Arabs, forcing them out of their settlements



Qaboos bin Said al Said overthrew his father to become Sultan of Oman



The Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, orchestrated the Cambodian genocide leading to the deaths of 25 per cent of the population



Adolf Hitler took advantage of the Great Depression to rise to power, as the people of Germany sought desperate measures



Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was captured and brutally killed by rebels, the events of which were filmed on a mobile phone



Stalin transformed the USSR from an agrarian society to an industrial power, but at a huge cost



Idi Amin siezed power of Uganda with a coup d'etat



Mao Zedong was responsible for the deaths of an estimated 40 to 70 million people through starvation



# Dictatorships across history

Though a few notorious names may spring to mind, there are many individuals who have either been entrusted with total power, or have taken it by force

## PHARAOKHS

**170**

pharaohs ruled in Ancient Egypt (approximately).

**90**

The number of years the longest-reigning pharaoh, Pepi II, is believed to have ruled.

**9**

The age it is thought Tutankhamun was when he became Egypt's youngest ruling pharaoh.



## THE FIRST EMPEROR

Technically the world's first emperor, Sargon the Great rules Akkad in Mesopotamia for about 35 years, during which time he greatly expands its empire via the total dominance he is afforded.

According to folklore, Sargon was found as a baby by a gardener floating down a river in a basket.

C. 3100 BCE – 30 BCE



## HITLER BECOMES CHANCELLOR

The turmoil Germany finds itself in after World War I provides fertile ground for Adolf Hitler, whose Nazi Party eliminates all opposition before turning their fire on the rest of Europe.

## STALIN'S SOVIET UNION



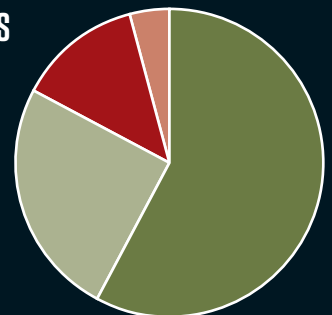
Exploiting the aftermath of the overthrow of the Russian tsar's regime and the subsequent death of Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin ascends to power, purging his enemies and developing a cult of personality.

## RISE OF FASCIST DICTATORSHIPS

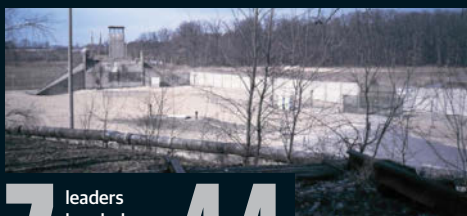
After World War I, a number of fascist regimes arose in Europe, leading towards World War II.

### WWII DEATHS

**58%**  
Allied civilians  
**25%**  
Allied military  
**13%**  
Axis military  
**4%**  
Axis civilians



## COLD WAR



**7** leaders headed the USSR during the Cold War.

**44**

The number of years the Cold War lasted.

**3,500,000**

East Germans fled to the West before the Berlin Wall was built.

## CHAIRMAN MAO



After becoming chairman of the newly founded People's Republic of China, Mao rules for 27 years, causing millions of deaths through his 'Great Leap Forward' and 'Cultural Revolution' policies.

Anywhere between 18 and 45 million people are estimated to have died as a result of Mao's 'Great Leap Forward'.

## FERDINAND MARCOS'S REGIME



While serving as president of the Philippines from 1965 to 1986, Marcos's regime becomes infamous for its corruption, as well as the extent to which it forbids press freedoms and opposition.



## ANCIENT GREEK TYRANNIES

In Ancient Greece, regimes controlled by rulers who had either seized power unconstitutionally or inherited it are known as tyrannies. Some of the best known include Cypselus at Corinth and Orthagoras at Sicyon.



C. 600 BCE

## JULIUS CAESAR MURDERED

Caesar's popularity is such that he has declared himself dictator for life. This consolidation of power earns him enemies, and he is assassinated in the Senate by a group of conspirators led by Brutus.



Julius Caesar also fathered a son with another renowned dictator: Cleopatra. He was named Caesarion.

44 BCE



## GENGHIS KHAN'S RISE TO POWER

Around this time, Genghis Khan becomes the sole ruler of the Mongols. When he dies in 1227, he will have established the largest land empire the world had ever seen.

1206

## NAPOLEON BECOMES CONSUL FOR LIFE



In much the same manner as Julius Caesar had centuries before him, Napoleon rises from being a military leader to the dominant ruler of his nation, taking on an almost god-like persona. As emperor of the French, Napoleon would build an empire that ruled over continental Europe before its collapse in 1815.

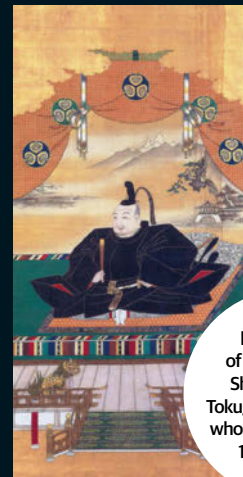
1799

## OLIVER CROMWELL



After the execution of Charles I, Cromwell becomes part of the ruling 'Rump Parliament', before being given the title of lord protector of England during its brief period without a monarchy.

1649



## THE FIRST OF THE SHOGUNS

Tokugawa Ieyasu becomes the first shogun (military governor) of the Tokugawa period, during which he will rid

The last member of the Tokugawa Shogunate was Tokugawa Yoshinobu, whose rule ended on 19 November 1867.

Japan of instability via his almost total control of the military and trade.

1603



## IDI AMIN

During his military dictatorship of Uganda, Idi Amin shocks the world by seizing power. He rules with an iron fist, dismantling parliament, introducing secret police and executing thousands at whim.

1971



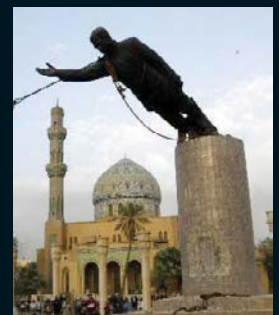
## CHILEAN MILITARY DICTATORSHIP

After the US-assisted overthrow of the democratically elected government, a military junta headed by Augusto Pinochet presides over a repressive regime in Chile, with thousands exiled or killed.

1973

## SADDAM TOPPLED

By the time Saddam Hussein is ejected from power on 9 April, he has ruled Iraq as president since 1979, although he has been the de facto head of the country for several years prior. During his presidency, he oversaw the First Gulf War and instigated an extremely oppressive regime.



2003



# Hall of Shame

## DESPICABLE DESPOTS

There has always been those who will use power to subjugate rather than inspire. Beyond the usual suspects, here are some of history's most notorious dictators

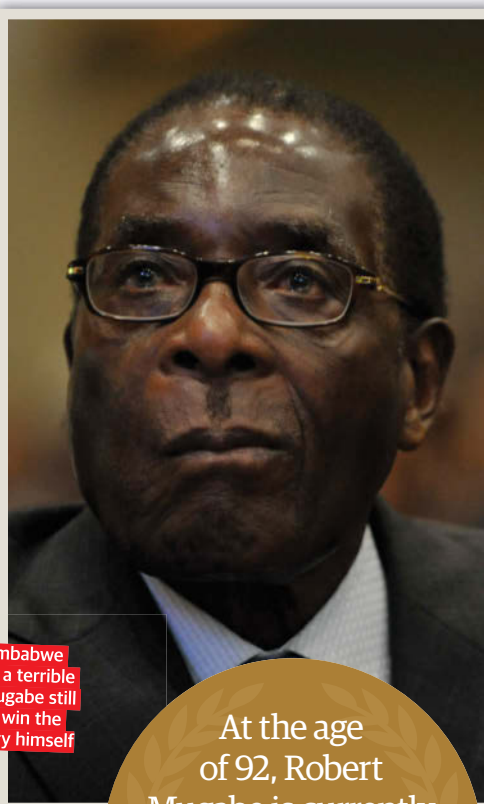


### POL POT

**CAMBODIAN 1925-98**

Having led the Khmer Rouge through its bloody coup and overthrow of the Cambodian government, Pol Pot (aka Saloth Sar) served as general secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea. He instigated policies aimed

at turning Cambodia into their vision of a rural communist society, with all citizens expelled from their homes and sent to agricultural communes. The calendar was set to Year Zero, and property, money and religion were all abolished. His brutal enactment of these policies led to many deaths, and despite the Khmer Rouge's overthrow in 1979, it continued to be recognised as the legitimate government of Cambodia.



### ROBERT MUGABE

**ZIMBABWEAN 1924-PRESENT**

A war hero in the 1975-79 Rhodesian Bush War, Mugabe won the general election to become prime minister of Zimbabwe by promising reconciliation. However, his regime has been marked by extreme repression, land seizures, ethnic cleansing, rigged elections and anti-West rhetoric. He consolidated his rule in 1987, combining the roles of head of state, head of government and commander in chief. At the time of writing, Robert Mugabe has been in power for 36 years, and although he was forced into a power-sharing deal in 2008, he remains the dominant Zimbabwean power even at the advanced age of 92.

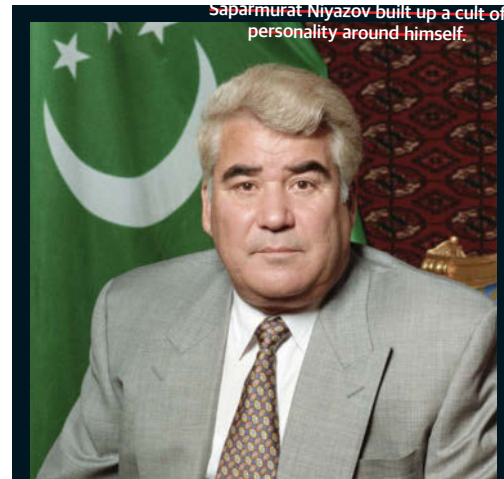
In 2000, Zimbabwe was enduring a terrible famine but Mugabe still managed to win the national lottery himself

At the age of 92, Robert Mugabe is currently the oldest head of state on the planet, and has been in power for 36 years

### JOSIP TITO

**YUGOSLAVIAN 1892-1980**

Born in to a peasant family, Josip Tito rose to become one of Europe's most prominent Cold War-era leaders, effectively ruling Yugoslavia between 1943 and 1980 in a variety of roles. Despite being viewed as a "benevolent dictator" by some historians for fostering a relative period of unity in the Balkans and distancing his regime from the kind of policies favoured by Stalin's Russia, his early rule was still characterised by rigged elections, governmental purges and the persecution of political opponents, all aimed at consolidating and justifying his rule. After his death, Yugoslavia would ultimately fracture into a number of separate republics.



Saparmurat Niyazov built up a cult of personality around himself.

### SAPARMURAT NIYAZOV

**TURKMEN 1940-2006**

Having been appointed the president for life of Turkmenistan in 1999, Niyazov set about becoming the very definition of the eccentric dictator. Among his strange acts, he changed the names of the months in honour of members of his family and placed a revolving gold statue on top of a building in the capital city of Ashgabat that always faced the Sun. However, this should not distract from his more ruthless tendencies, such as the persecution of political dissidents, and bizarre laws like banning young men from having beards or gold teeth, as well as forbidding listening to car radios.





Juan Manuel de Rosas instigated a reign of terror in Argentina

## JUAN MANUEL DE ROSAS

ARGENTINIAN 1793-1877

In the wake of gaining control of the Buenos Aires government in 1829, purported aristocracy descendant Rosas demonstrated brutally autocratic tendencies. He dissolved congress, set up a secret police, introduced a cult of personality and led a general reign of terror that left many dead. Having instigated a number of wars in neighbouring countries, he fled to England after being deposed in 1852, and later died in obscurity, away from the grandeur of his office.

Having lived his final years in the UK, Rosas was buried in Southampton, before being repatriated to Argentina in 1989

## GABRIEL GARCIA MORENO

ECUADORIAN 1821-75

Moreno was heavily influenced by religion and, assisted by former president Juan Jose Flores, seized power of his native Ecuador, ruling throughout two different periods from 1861-65 and 1869-75. Despite the oppressive nature of his rule, he encouraged a relative period of prosperity. His leadership reduced corruption, strengthened the economy and built links with the Catholic Church. All these achievements didn't help him, though, as he was assassinated in 1875 at the age of 53.

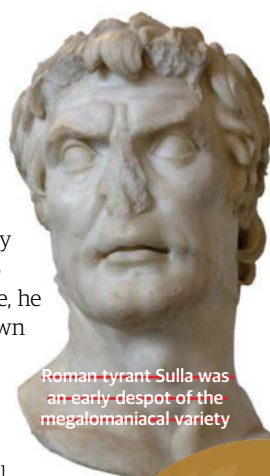


Moreno ushered a more religion-influenced dictatorship into Ecuador

## SULLA

ROMAN 138 BCE - 78 BCE

One of the most renowned Roman tyrants, Sulla came to power after marching on Rome and taking it by force, despite holding no political post. From there, he introduced a policy known as 'proscription', offering rewards to those who would bring to him the people mentioned on a list (usually political opponents or dissidents), dead or alive. More than 1,600 died in this way. Unusually, he lived long enough to retire.



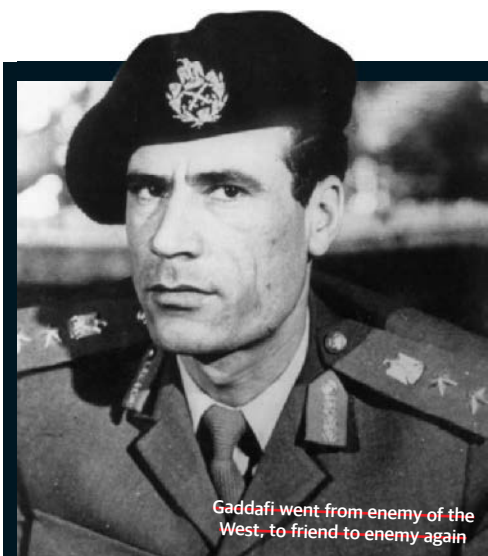
Roman tyrant Sulla was an early despot of the megalomaniacal variety

Hussein's son Uday was in charge of Iraq's national football team, who he reportedly tortured for poor performances

## MUAMMAR GADDAFI

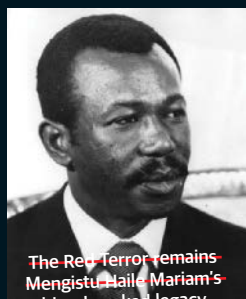
LIBYAN C.1942-2011

After seizing power in 1969, Gaddafi ruled for more than 40 years up until his overthrow and death in 2011 in the midst of the Libyan Civil War. During his time in power, he gained notoriety for his tendencies towards corruption, heavy-handed military tactics and human rights abuses. He was also linked to a number of terrorist acts, although he ended up working closely with various Western governments despite this. However, his time ran out when he was deposed from power by NATO-backed dissidents, and he suffered a brutal death while on the run.



Gaddafi went from enemy of the West, to friend to enemy again

"I want you to know that everything I did, I did for my country" **Pol Pot**



The Red Terror remains Mengistu Haile Mariam's blood-soaked legacy

## MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM

ETHIOPIAN 1937-PRESENT

An avowed communist, Mariam is most notorious

for overseeing the 'Red Terror' while in charge of the ruling Derg military junta in Ethiopia. After overthrowing Haile Selassie in 1974, he attempted to rule the country according to his take on Marxist ideals, which led to the death or disappearance of thousands of people. After his government was overthrown in 1991, he successfully fled the country, and has since lived in seclusion in Zimbabwe.

## SADDAM HUSSEIN

IRAQI 1937-2006

The president of Iraq from 1979 to 2003, Saddam Hussein's rule was characterised by brutal repression of his own people. He also instigated a series of costly wars, the first with Iran from 1980-88 after attempting to seize the country's oil wells, and then the Persian Gulf War, which was triggered in 1991 by Iraq's occupation of neighbouring Kuwait. The subsequent years were dominated by his massacre of the Shiite and Kurdish populations, followed by a refusal to fully co-operate with regards to nuclear and chemical weapons. Ultimately, Hussein was toppled from power after a US and British-led invasion, leading to his capture in 2003 and then death in 2006.



War and brutal suppression dominated Saddam Hussein's rule of Iraq





# ADOLF HITLER'S SUICIDE

**BERLIN, GERMANY**  
**30 APRIL 1945**

As battle raged on the streets of Berlin, Nazi Germany's Führer was 15 metres underground in his subterranean lair, the Führerbunker. Adolf Hitler was safe for now, but it wouldn't be long until the Third Reich's capital was overrun by the vengeful Red Army. Hitler's remaining allies had pleaded with him to escape south to the Alpine retreat of Berchtesgaden. However, the Führer, determined to be a martyr for the cause, stayed put. Now more mentally twisted than ever, he believed his presence in Berlin would inspire what was left of the Wehrmacht to hold out. There would be no humiliating armistice like in 1918.

Hitler's last few days were dominated by those he held in high regard deserting him. Heinrich Himmler attempted to make peace with the Allies while Hermann Göring appointed himself the new führer. It was only at the end of April that Hitler realised the game was up and made preparations for his passing. Under no circumstances would he be captured and suffer the same as Mussolini, strung up for the world to see. He married his long-time companion Eva Braun and dictated his final testament that, typically, was a tirade on how Jews were to blame for the war.

At 2.30am on 30 April, Hitler bid farewell to those in the Führerbunker. That afternoon, he was found dead. A Walther PPK pistol was on the floor next to him and his new wife also lay lifeless after biting on a cyanide capsule. The bodies were burned until they were just charred remains. The Wehrmacht's guns soon fell silent and the tyranny of the Third Reich was over.



## New Chancellery Garden

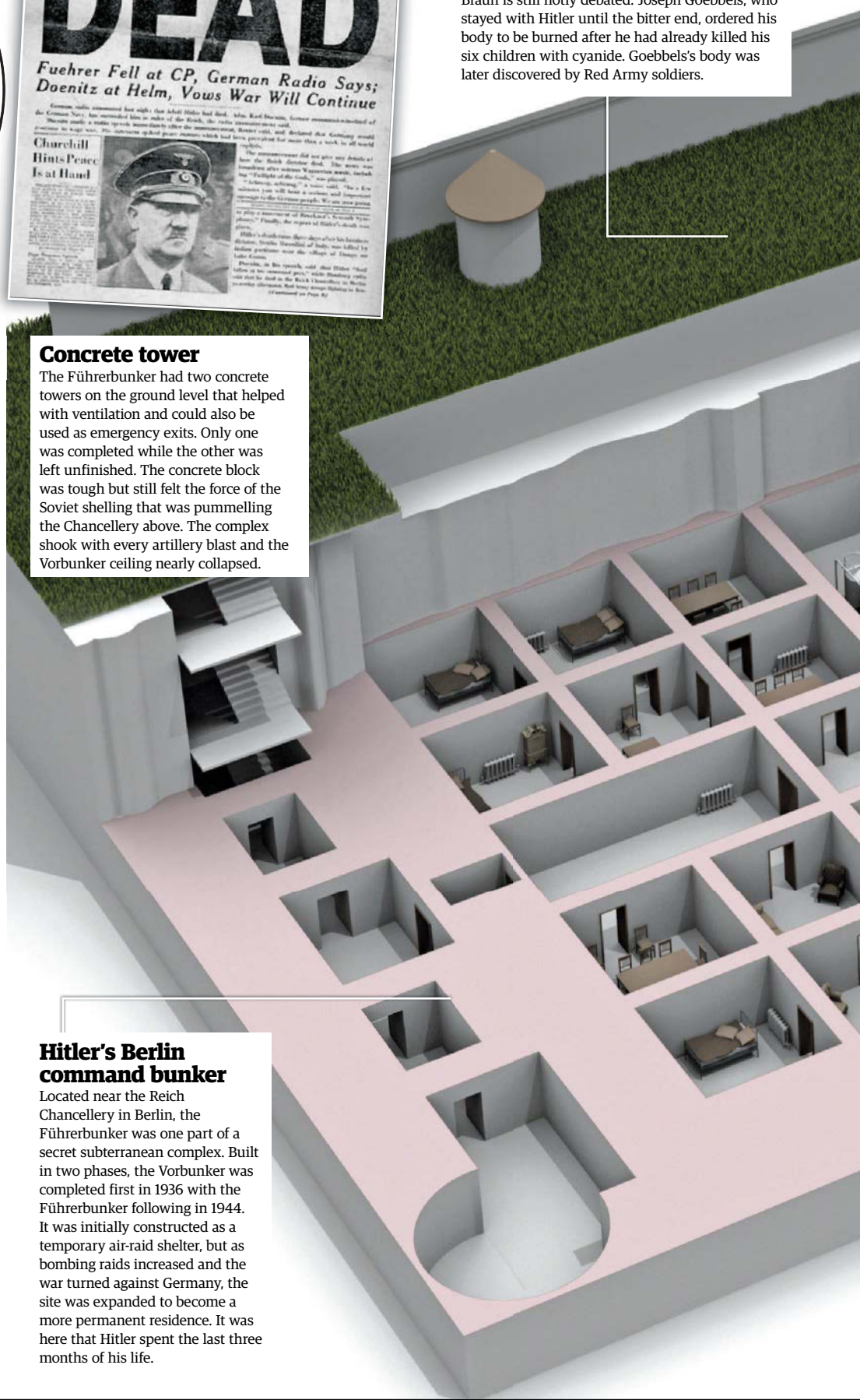
Hitler's body was burned to a crisp in the grounds above the bunker. Whether the corpses recovered by the Red Army were those of Hitler and Eva Braun is still hotly debated. Joseph Goebbels, who stayed with Hitler until the bitter end, ordered his body to be burned after he had already killed his six children with cyanide. Goebbels's body was later discovered by Red Army soldiers.

## Concrete tower

The Führerbunker had two concrete towers on the ground level that helped with ventilation and could also be used as emergency exits. Only one was completed while the other was left unfinished. The concrete block was tough but still felt the force of the Soviet shelling that was pummeling the Chancellery above. The complex shook with every artillery blast and the Vorbunker ceiling nearly collapsed.

## Hitler's Berlin command bunker

Located near the Reich Chancellery in Berlin, the Führerbunker was one part of a secret subterranean complex. Built in two phases, the Vorbunker was completed first in 1936 with the Führerbunker following in 1944. It was initially constructed as a temporary air-raid shelter, but as bombing raids increased and the war turned against Germany, the site was expanded to become a more permanent residence. It was here that Hitler spent the last three months of his life.





## Generators

The bunker was powered by a series of engines that had been installed once it was realised that Hitler was planning on long-term occupation. Housed in one room, the diesel generators provided electricity for the entire complex as well as ventilation and water-extraction pumps. The whole system was very loud and it is believed that this noise prevented anyone from hearing the gunshot that Hitler fired into his temple.

## End of the Führerbunker

The Soviets blew up the area in the late 1940s, destroying part of the bunker. Just over four decades later in 1988, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) decided to demolish it further, blocking off its entrances in the process. Parts of the complex remain underground and there is talk of a reconstruction of the bunker opening to the public in the future.

## Reinforced concrete

The thick bunker walls were made of concrete and each door was made air tight to protect from potential gas attacks. This made it bomb proof, but despite being so well protected, the Führerbunker's weak point was its communication system. The small telephone switchboard meant the only way of contacting the outside world were calls to civilians that were used to find out if the Red Army had advanced to their sector yet.

## Subterranean tunnels

The Vorbunker was connected to the Führerbunker by a tunnel. This allowed easy access between the two areas of the underground complex. The entire bunker was 915 square metres in size and the main entrance was a red-carpeted corridor lined with paintings.

## The Vorbunker

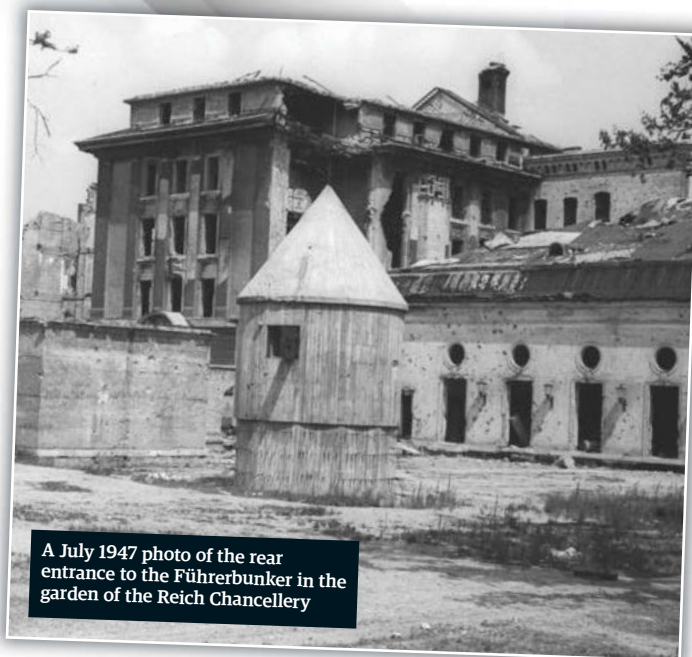
As well as the main Führerbunker, there was another area of the compound known as the Vorbunker. It had 12 rooms compared to the Führerbunker's 20 and was located 6.4 metres underground. It was designed to house sanitary, administrative and auxiliary staff for the smooth running of the entire complex, even when Nazi Germany was coming ever closer to complete capitulation.

## A little bit of luxury

The entire underground building was originally designed as a simple air-raid shelter but it became something much grander. The luxury of the Führerbunker may have been above a standard air-raid bunker but it was a world away from the Wolfsschanze (Wolf's Lair) where Hitler orchestrated his strategies during the war. The conference room in particular was cramped, but this was where the final military briefings of the German war effort were held.

## A variety of rooms

Hitler stayed in the bunker for 105 days from January 1945 until his suicide in April. The area was kitted out with a number of quarters to make the stay as bearable and functional as possible. The Führer had an office and a map room to plan military strategy in, as well as a bedroom and a bathroom and even a room specifically reserved for his dogs and bodyguards.



A July 1947 photo of the rear entrance to the Führerbunker in the garden of the Reich Chancellery



## 5 shocking facts about...

# CALIGULA

INFAMOUS EMPEROR OF ROME  
ROMAN EMPIRE, 12 CE – 41 CE

### 01 He thought he was a god

Caligula knew how to push people's buttons, but in the last year of his reign, he arguably went too far. He appeared in public dressed as one of the Roman deities and ordered his subjects to address him as such. He was even referred to as 'Jupiter' on official documents. When he announced that he was leaving Rome for Egypt to be worshipped as a god, the senate had him killed.

### 02 At first, they loved him

Perhaps he was simply settling in or positioning his political pieces, but for the first six months of his reign, Caligula eased the punitive imperial tax system, gave the Roman military bonuses and put on gladiatorial games for the people, endearing himself to all. Then he fell drastically ill – possibly as a result of being poisoned – and when he recovered, people around him started dying. It was downhill from there.

### 03 He was generous to a fault

In 38 CE, Caligula went on a spending spree, buying himself some friends (presumably to replace the ones he had killed) with public funds by abolishing several taxes and providing generous support for Roman citizens in need. It drained the treasury so much that in 39 CE, Rome experienced a financial crisis. Caligula blamed everyone but himself, and the rich Romans that had been implicated by the emperor started dying, after which he simply confiscated their estates.

### 04 His pleasure barges were legendary

Caligula's two barges had long been known to reside at the bottom of Lake Nemi. So in 1929, another despot, the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, ordered the lake drained and the ships recovered. In their day, they would have been outrageously opulent, with marble statues, mosaic floors, heating and even bejewelled poop decks. Unfortunately, they were destroyed by bombing in 1944.

### 05 He dressed as a woman

When Caligula recovered from his brush with death in 37 CE, he suffered from intense headaches. He would walk his palace at night wearing silk gowns and women's clothes, rather than his masculine togas. It's by no means the most outrageous or depraved of the rumoured acts that have come to define this leader but, during this formative time, it could have been an indication of a sick mind, warped by his terrible illness.





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# Day in the life

## A PROPAGANDA ARTIST

### IN THE WAR ON CAPITALIST AGGRESSION, THE PENCIL IS THE SWORD OF THE WORKERS, USSR, 1924-53

Every dictator needs a propaganda machine to keep their regime popular. Political propaganda arguably reached its zenith during the troubled years of World War II, and one of the frontrunners of this ministry of misinformation was the Soviet Union. Unlike the printed posters of Nazi Germany, Great Britain and Fascist Italy, the USSR made use of a dizzying array of craftsmen, technicians, artists and writers to produce striking and sophisticated glorifications of Stalin, denunciations of Hitler and appeals to socialist values. And they did most of it by hand in a specialist studio run by TASS, the Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union.

1

### CATCH UP WITH THE NEWS

When the artists arrived at their desks at TASS's in-house art studio, the first thing on their agenda was to read through the official reports and directives from Moscow's numerous ministries to get abreast of current affairs. Speeches given recently by Stalin were also approved fodder for artistic inspiration.

2

### START PLANNING

From his propaganda machine Stalin desired 'windows' - which were stencilled comic strips that had become popular during the civil war - and posters, which were typically designed in the heroic Socialist realist style. The former lampooned the enemies of the people while the latter reflected the true glory of the Soviet Union. Each project would have had a two-man team at least, as well as one poet to finesse and refine the message.



Heroic young female partisan attacking Germans in this 'window'

3

### SEEK APPROVAL

What an artist thinks is a good idea might actually not be so good if it doesn't toe the party line. Before any work could begin on a project, each concept had to be scrutinised by a representative of the People's Commissariat of Education to ensure it was thoroughly on-message and something that Stalin himself would approve of.





## CUT THE STENCILS

For the windows, up to 65 stencils would be cut to make up the individual elements. Unlike printed posters, windows could vary in size and intricacy as they were pieced together from multiple sheets of paper and put up in shop windows. There was also no restriction on the number of colours used.

## THE POSTER HITS THE PRODUCTION LINE

An assembly line of workers would then spring into action: the stencil was put in place, one painter gave it a splash of colour, another stencil came down, another painter added his or her paints, text cutters added their stencils and so on, as the pages were passed from workstation to workstation.

## THE WORKER ANTS DO THEIR THING

With one eye on the clock, three shifts of workers would turn out between 50 and 1,500 copies of each poster a day. Each one would have been produced by hand. This was actually quicker than lithographic printing, because if there's one thing the Soviet Union wasn't shy of, it was manpower.

## THE BIG REVEAL

Between 12 and 20 individual sheets of paper would be stuck together, revealing a single gargantuan image that could be as big as 12 foot tall. The finished product was a masterpiece - painted by hand, it had greater detail than would be possible in a printed poster.

## PRINTS CHARMING

A run of postcard-sized flyers and lithographs would be printed using the same design. They had flatter colours and less texture, but were far easier to transport across the country to the far-flung reaches of the red empire. Some designs were later outsourced to studios like Gopolitizdat, Sotrudnik and Iskustvo to print en masse.





# How to STAGE A COUP D'ETAT

## THE BEST WAY TO WREST POWER AND HOLD ON TO IT MEXICO, 1822-54

When revolution isn't on the cards, a coup d'etat is the next best thing. A way to cut the head off the current institutions without getting the rest of the nation directly involved, a coup doesn't always need to be bloody, but it does need momentum and a leader with the ambition to succeed. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was a dictator who used coups to his advantage. Not a megalomaniac like Ancient Roman emperors or a true despot like Hitler, through careful manipulation of political conventions, Santa Anna served as president no less than 11 times, including once as a fully fledged dictator.

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED



### President first

Initially play ball by accepting another role. Once in the inner circle, you can take steps to tweak your role to dictator.

### Make them believe you're a patriot

A dictator has to be a force of nature, getting everyone round to his or her way of thinking.

### Use your contacts

Having an influence over the military is invaluable and can be used to your advantage when force becomes necessary.

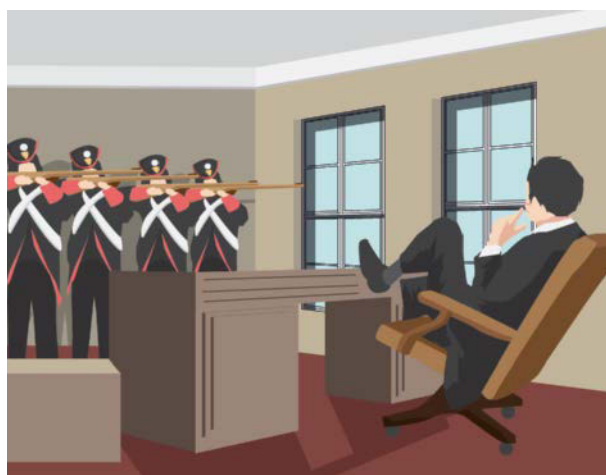
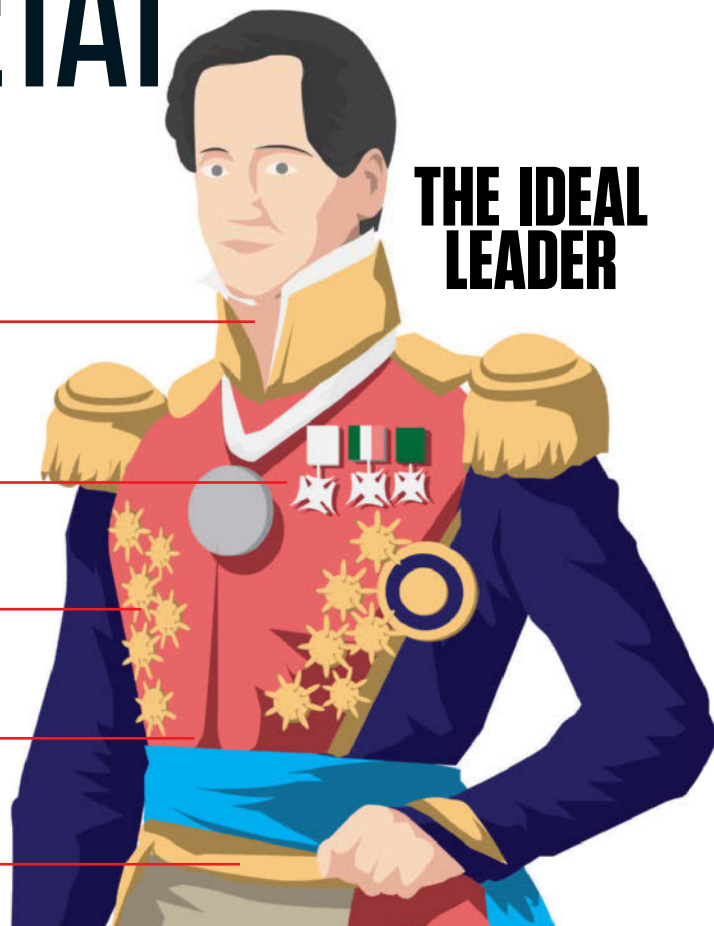
### Embrace corruption

Often the key to getting your own way is to pay, threaten and kill off whoever stands in your way.

### Don't give up

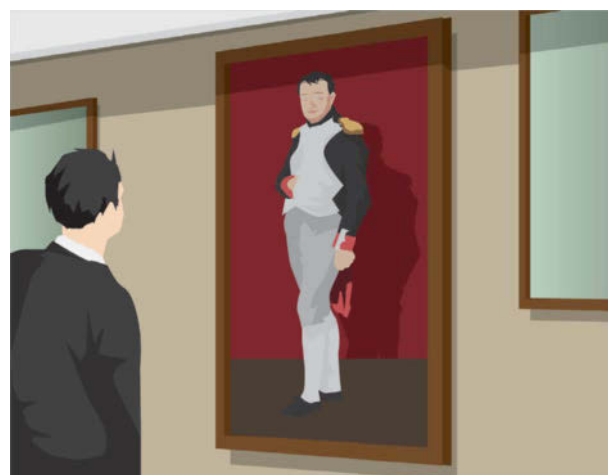
The desire to attain power must always prevail. If you get knocked down, get up and go again.

## THE IDEAL LEADER



### 01 Act swiftly

This isn't a revolution, it's a coup. Changes will be made at the top, not throughout the country, so the planning of a nationwide demonstration isn't required. Mexico had threats from both the USA and Spain at this time and Santa Anna, a renowned and decorated military general, helped the coups succeed by playing others to his advantage.



### 02 Keep your ego in check

Santa Anna considered himself the 'Napoleon of the West'. While some admired his narcissism, it generally hindered his cause. One of his generals complained he "would listen to nothing which was not in accord with [Napoleon's] ideas." Even when it came to military tactics, Santa Anna was a slave to his alter-ego, insisting his troops march exactly as Napoleon's had.



## How not to... overthrow the government

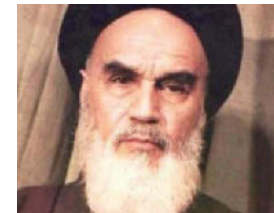
Even after the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, some felt Japan should still not give in to the Allies. The Kyūjō Incident was a coup attempt undertaken by military officers trying to prevent an unconditional surrender. It was led by Major Kenji Hatanaka on the night of 14 August 1945, and the plan was to put Emperor Hirohito under house arrest and prevent the acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration.

While the emperor was confined, the officers' plan was to assassinate

any officials who favoured submission. The group justified their actions through 'Gekokujō', which is the idea of overthrowing superiors for the good of the people. After killing the commander of the Imperial Guard, Hatanaka and his men hurriedly searched for copies of the surrender announcement before the army could mobilise. They failed. Realising the game was up, Hatanaka shot himself. One hour later, the surrender announcement was aired and the war was officially over.



## 4 FAMOUS... COUP D'ETAT LEADERS



### AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINI 1978-79, IRAN

The Iranian Revolution was led by Supreme Leader Khomeini, who overthrew the government of Shah Mohammad Reza.



### KLEMENT GOTTWALD 1948, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Gottwald became president of his homeland after a communist coup, which purged all anti-communist members of the Czech military.



### NAPOLEON 1799, FRANCE

This coup enabled Napoleon to topple the current institution and rule by decree. The First French Empire was born shortly after.



### MARCUS JUNIUS BRUTUS 44 BCE, ROME

Fearing Julius Caesar's ever growing power, Brutus, along with Cassius and a host of other senators, stabbed the dictator to death.



## 03 Keep plugging away

Coups aren't always successful and a cycle of overthrowing can become the norm. If one fails, a coup can soon be attempted again if those in power endure another weak period. When you return for a second or third coup, the route to power may well be easier, with stronger and better allies attacking the government with a renewed tenacity.



## 04 Take desperate measures

Even if your coup has been successful, it doesn't mean everything will fall into place after you take charge. In April 1833, Santa Anna was president but left the governing of the country to his vice-president, Valentin Gómez Farias. However, after Farias introduced unpopular reforms, Santa Anna was forced to overthrow his own government and become a dictator.



## 05 Make a statement

Once the glory of a coup is over, you can easily turn into yesterday's news. Take every opportunity to remind both your allies and rivals that you are the undisputed leader. Santa Anna lost a leg to a cannonball shot in 1838, and he later rode on horseback holding his new wooden leg above his head to illustrate the sacrifice he had made.



## 06 Save your skin

Unfortunately, you can only engage in so many coups before you run out of steam. If you are unable to make things go your way, it's best to throw in the towel and admit defeat. Leaving with at least some sort of reputation will help save your skin and get you out unscathed. Santa Anna slunk off into exile in 1855, fleeing to Cuba.



# THE Anatomy of

## A BLACKSHIRT

ITALY, 1923

### BLACK SHIRT

IT'S THE NEW PINK, Y'KNOW

Il Duce's volunteer militia, the paramilitary wing of his national fascist party, wore black uniforms, or at least a black shirt. This was inspired by the uniform of Italy's elite World War I storm troopers, the Arditi - or 'the daring ones'.

### RIDING BREECHES

BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE IN EUROPE WEARS THEM

The choice of uniform was as much down to Mussolini seeking individuality as anything else. Riding breeches were comfortable, practical and original at the time. He set a trend, too: not only was Hitler inspired by the Blackshirt march on Rome to form the Munich Putsch, but he fancied those pants for his own militia - the SS.

### SWAGGER STICK

IT WASN'T ALWAYS FOR SHOW

While the Blackshirts were beating and burning their way up the parliamentary food chain, they still needed to appear respectable, rather than a rabble. A neatly pressed uniform was a good start - a cane and gloves complemented their riding togs and made them appear a cut above the peasants. It doubled up as a painful beat stick in a pinch, too.

### FEZ

IL DUCE MADE THEM POPULAR LONG BEFORE TOMMY COOPER

As if all the military equestrian clobber wasn't trendsetting enough, the future Italian duce topped this uniform with a black fez. The National Fascist Party emblem - an axe bound in a bundle of wooden rods - was typically worn on it as a badge.

### PO-FACE

THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT FASCISM

There were as many as 200,000 Blackshirts by October 1922, and as Mussolini's power grew, so did their boldness. With violent attacks against their bitter enemies the Socialists, labour unions and anyone who opposed their views, intimidation was their game. So smiles were out of the equation.

### A CHEST FULL OF MEDALS

THEY'RE PROUD TO BE ITALIANS

Many of Mussolini's Blackshirt volunteers would have been drawn from the military - ex-World War I Italian servicemen. The uniform might have been inspired by Italian special forces, but black is quite understated, so nothing screams 'HERO!' louder than to have every honour you've ever earned dripping off your left breast.

### JACKBOOTS

FOR THE MARCH ON ROME

What better way to announce a fresh new trend in Italian politics and footwear than a catwalk? A giant catwalk that stretches all the way to Rome, the capital of the world's most fashionable country. 30,000 Blackshirts should do it, and they're going to need some noisy black heels.





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The Inquisition was not a new idea: the Medieval Inquisition had been used in the 13th century

ISABELLA OF CASTILE'S

# SPANISH INQUISITION

Synonymous today with brutality and torture, the Spanish Inquisition was actually established under the rule of one of Spain's most renowned and civilised monarchs

Written by Willow Winsham

Isabella had been born for this moment. If the 23-year-old princess felt anything other than serenity and conviction, it did not show on her face, her expression betraying nothing as she processed into the church of San Miguel, Segovia, Spain. At last the day had come, and she was to take her place as the queen of Castile and Leon, the largest of the Iberian Peninsula's fragmented kingdoms.

The whole city had come forth to witness her triumph. Only hours before, they had buried the old king and now, his successor, bestrode a white horse and adorned with jewels and riches to display her power, came to deliver them from the chaos and disorder that had plagued the people for so long.

Surrounded by her new subjects, Isabella proclaimed her intentions towards the beleaguered kingdom with grace and authority. There would be peace and stability, she promised, and, above all, she would uphold the church that was the cornerstone of her world. Religious unity and peace would reign once again in the Iberian Peninsula. God had decreed it through her, and she would not fail in her duty.

Isabella, to be known in her own time and in centuries to come as one of the greatest rulers Spain had ever seen, was born to John II of Castile and Isabella of Portugal on 22 April 1451. Or so the sources imply, for, at the time, she was considered so inconsequential that the date of her birth and baptism were not even recorded.

She was born into a Spain that was not yet united: Castile and the rest of the Iberian Peninsula was a hotbed of political, religious and social unrest, and the princess - who stood third in line to the throne after

the birth of her younger brother, Alfonso - did not have a secure childhood. When her father died in 1454, her elder stepbrother became king as Henry IV: living away from court but under the constant eye of her older brother's men, Isabella, her grief-stricken mother and younger brother were kept out of the public eye, ostensibly for their own good but in reality to keep them away from the intrigue that surrounded the court and the thorny issue of the succession.

In greatly reduced living conditions, it was here that Isabella's life-long piety was first carefully cultivated at the hands of her mother and friends, the religious conviction that would see her through many a hardship taking root in fertile soil. It was also during these years of hardship that Isabella's already apparent self control and iron will were carefully honed, standing her in good stead for what was to follow.

Castile under Henry's rule was dangerously unstable: weak, inept and in thrall to his favourites, the king was dethroned in effigy by his nobles in 1465 and Isabella's younger brother declared king. Civil war broke out, and as the kingdom descended further into terror and brutality, Isabella switched allegiance, proclaiming her support for her younger brother. All expectations were that Alfonso would return Castile to its former glory, but hopes were dashed when the young pretender died suddenly in 1468. Amid the official story of plague, rumours of poisoning abounded, and Isabella, named as Alfonso's successor, became the perfect focus for the hopes of the kingdom.

Over the years that followed, she steered a careful course; instead of succumbing to pressure to lead the revolt, she instead remained outwardly agreeable



## ISABELLA'S RING COLLECTION

An attractive prospect on the marriage market, Isabella was not lacking in potential suitors

1457

### FERDINAND OF ARAGON

**Reason:** A negotiation between Henry of Castile and John II of Navarre to show their united front.  
**Outcome:** The arrangement was as fickle as the friendship, and was broken off four years later.

1461

### CHARLES OF VIANA

**Reason:** The Castilian king turned to Ferdinand's 40-year-old brother to cement an alliance.  
**Outcome:** John II had his son imprisoned, and the betrothal became moot as Charles died that year.

1464

### EDWARD IV OF ENGLAND

**Reason:** Another alliance attempt; with the added benefit of removing Isabella from Castile.  
**Outcome:** Edward IV had already fallen in love with, and secretly married, Elizabeth Woodville.

1465

### AFONSO V OF PORTUGAL

**Reason:** Another strategic attempt to remove Isabella from the line of succession.  
**Outcome:** Diplomatic relations broke down, much to the relief of the less than impressed Isabella.

1466

### PEDRO GIRON PACHERO

**Reason:** Master of the Order of Calatrava - he held her brother hostage until the betrothal was agreed.  
**Outcome:** The horrified princess prayed to be delivered; Pedro died on his way to claim her.

1468

### RICHARD OF YORK

**Reason:** The second most powerful man in England, he was a worthy husband for a princess.  
**Outcome:** An alliance with England was no longer on the cards as relations broke down.

1468

### CHARLES DUKE OF BERRY

**Reason:** A move towards setting aside the historic bad feeling between Spain and France.  
**Outcome:** The habitual conflict between the two countries soon meant the alliance was set aside.

1469

### AFONSO V OF PORTUGAL

**Reason:** A final attempt to prevent Isabella from inheriting the throne in Castile.  
**Outcome:** The match was thwarted by Isabella's own actions.

1469

### FERDINAND OF ARAGON

**Reason:** Isabella never forgot her first betrothal, and entered negotiations on her own behalf.  
**Outcome:** After finally meeting, the smitten Isabella declared she would have no one but Ferdinand.

towards her older brother, negotiating expertly to achieve what she wanted. Honing the control and determination that had been instilled in her during her early years, Isabella bided her time, waiting for the moment she would be called to bring her kingdom back to order.

Isabella attracted several suitors over the years, but the one who held her lasting attention was Ferdinand, the second son of John, king of the neighbouring kingdom of Aragon. Similar in age to her, fit, athletic, handsome and witty, the match had first been mooted when Isabella was only six years old. Now, some 12 years later, she negotiated her own marriage under the very nose of her brother, and in flagrant defiance of the king, married Ferdinand in 1469.

With his kingdom in tatters, Henry died in 1474. Finally Isabella got what she had fought for: She took the throne as queen of Castile and Leon on 11 December 1474. Although heralded by many as the saviour of the kingdom, the early years of her reign were far from smooth, rife with rebellions and plots to overthrow her. Although she had not been trained to rule, and was lacking in Latin and other accomplishments deemed necessary for the task, Isabella did not falter; she had been appointed by God, and by God she would rule. Only she could bring religious unity to the divided kingdom. Her entire life she had been waiting for this moment. She would not fail.

There had been Jews in Spain for more than 1,500 years, and in Isabella's time the population stood at about 80,000 Jews to 6 million Christians. The question of the Jewish faith had long been a delicate issue throughout Europe. Expelled from England in 1290 and France just under a century later, the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon had not followed suit, although there had been forced conversions to Christianity twice in quite recent history. Those who converted became known as 'conversos'.

There were those, however, who did not think that the conversos were entirely sincere. They had taken advantage of their new position, it was argued, and indeed many reached positions of power and wealth within the kingdom, further fuelling rumours and jealousies. These false converts, guilty of judaising - practicing their old religion while professing the new - were a threat to the security of the realm and the very souls of those who lived there.

Although clever in their deception, there were ways to tell if a convert was still secretly holding to Jewish ways. Food, for one, played a big part in determining if someone's conversion was sincere. Not eating pork, rabbit, and birds that had been strangled was a give away, as was frying meat in olive oil instead of lard. Cleansing of meat in general, the cutting off of fat and cooking meat in advance so as not to cook on a Saturday was also used as evidence against supposedly converted 'new' Christians. Avoiding baptising their children and denying that Jesus had been the Messiah were among other ways of identifying a secret Jew.




The matter was further complicated as there were varying degrees of non-adherence. Some conversos were deeply against the tenets of the Catholic Church, maintaining as many elements of their old faith as they could get away with. Others adopted a mixed approach, mingling Jewish practice with Christian in a hybrid religion that differed from family to family.

One thing was certain, it would no longer be tolerated. Heresy was not something the new queen could afford to ignore: not only the souls of her people but also her own would be in peril, and must be saved at all costs.

It is often said that a visit to Seville in 1477 first stirred Isabella's interest in adopting an inquisition - or investigation - into the religious state of her kingdom. Receiving first-hand reports of false converts within the city would have alarmed the

## THE UNIFICATION OF SPAIN

Until the 15th century, the rulers of Castile and Aragon governed a series of separate distinct kingdoms within the Iberian Peninsula. The marriage of Isabella of Castile to Ferdinand of Aragon in 1469, however, began the gradual process of unification that would lead to the eventual creation of the Spain we know today.

	United by Ferdinand and Isabella - 1479
	Conquered by Spain - 1492
	Acquired by Spain - 1524





Although initially approved by the pope, the Inquisition was later condemned by the papacy

## REFORMING A KINGDOM

After inheriting a kingdom in turmoil, Isabella initiated highly effective reform



**Law:** La Santa Hermandad, or The Holy Brotherhood, was revived, an old system of armed local militias that acted as a citizen police force. Accountable to the queen, they tracked and captured criminals, as well as helping to establish and maintain order. The Hermandad were highly efficient, with a close to 100 per cent success rate. Isabella also personally oversaw the appointment of judges, and the entire judicial system grew more efficient due to regular checks and officials being held to account.



**Finance:** Currency throughout the kingdom was in a poor state, with coinage debased and inflation driving the population to financial ruin. Isabella reduced the number of royal mints to combat this problem and took control of currency production, restoring the value of Castilian coin. The previous reigns had left the royal coffers devastatingly depleted, especially due to the injudicious selling off of Crown lands. This was halted and reversed under Isabella, with lands either given or sold back to the Crown.



**Government:** The reform of the royal council was high on Isabella's list of priorities, and she eradicated the dominance of the nobility by restructuring the composition of the council to consist of nine lawyers and only three nobles. She also recognised the importance of personal contact with her subjects, and ensured that there was ample opportunity for people to air their grievances in her presence. The council of state found itself reformed, new councils were established and the entirety of the governmental machine was streamlined to maximise efficiency.

The influence of the reforms made by Isabella and her husband Ferdinand stretched far beyond the borders of their united kingdoms





# ISABELLA OF CASTILE'S SPANISH INQUISITION

devout queen greatly; the threat they posed to the religious unity and wellbeing of her kingdom would have been a very real concern.

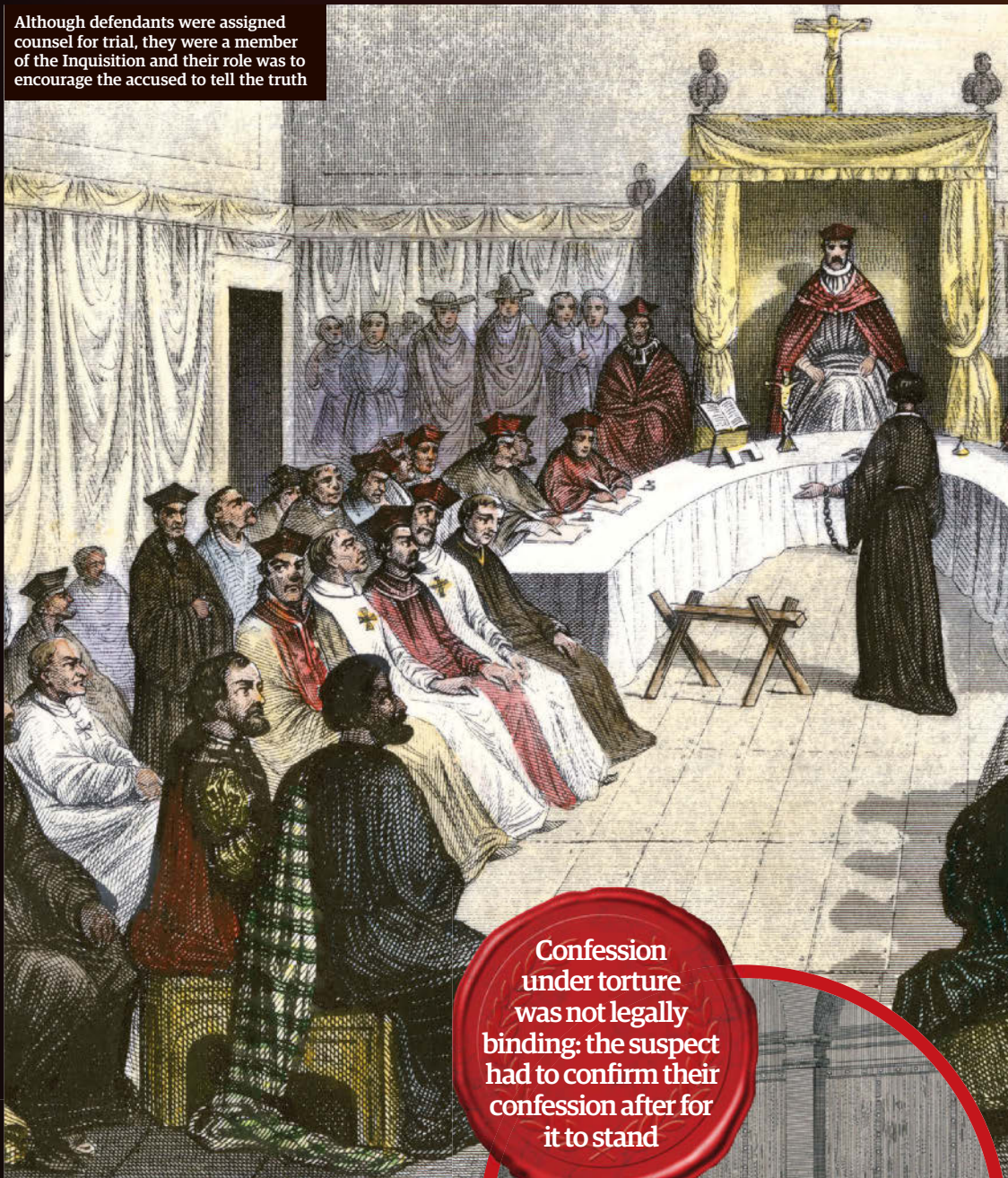
There were those who advocated an aggressive approach from the start, but it seems Isabella was not initially inclined to follow such a course. Despite a Papal Bull granted in 1478 by Pope Sixtus IV giving permission to establish the Inquisition within Castile, Isabella was in no hurry to put it into practice. Ignoring the advocates of a high-handed approach, Isabella instead concentrated attention on religious education, or rather the lack of it; certain that poor training was the reason conversos were failing to follow their new faith, she embarked upon a programme of education to establish the religious conformity essential for the security of her reign.

Two men greatly trusted by Isabella - Cardinal Mendoza and her confessor, the eventual Archbishop of Granada, Hernando de Talavera - were entrusted with this vital task. Arriving in Seville, they set to work, organising priests into enlightening the misguided conversos. They did not make much headway, however, and it soon became clear that they could do little to penetrate the religious ignorance that plagued the town.

For two years attempts were continued, with little success. Despite her own reservations, there were those close to Isabella who continued to advocate the introduction of an inquisition. Even her husband Ferdinand, ever the pragmatist, was all for it; if nothing else, it would prove a good way of inflating the royal coffers through the confiscation of converso property. With a heavy heart and steely resolve, Isabella had to concede that her attempts to bring religious conformity and peace to her realm had failed. By a royal decree of 27 September 1480, the Spanish Inquisition - or The Tribunal of the Holy Office of the Inquisition - was unleashed upon Castile.

Isabella's initial aim was simple: root out the false converts among the converso population and get rid of the heretics jeopardising her beloved kingdom. Although popularised in Spain, it was not an entirely novel idea, and the new inquisition was modelled closely on the older Medieval Inquisition. Under Isabella and Ferdinand, however, the inquisitorial method was given new life, fuelled by Isabella's conviction that religious unity must be achieved whatever the cost.

Although defendants were assigned counsel for trial, they were a member of the Inquisition and their role was to encourage the accused to tell the truth



Confession under torture was not legally binding: the suspect had to confirm their confession after for it to stand

## HOW IT WORKED

What happened for a suspect to go from being accused to convicted, and what outcome could they hope for?

### Denouncement

With the offer of grace if confession was made within a certain amount of time, people were encouraged to come forward to confess their sins and to name others in the process.

### Detention

The suspect was relieved of their property and imprisoned, their family left in financial ruin. The process was secret, the accused not informed of the nature of the accusations against them.

### Trial

The defendant testified, and those who denounced them did likewise. Finding witnesses to absolve them or to prove that their accusers were untrustworthy were a suspect's only means of defence.





# THE SPANISH INQUISITION IS HIRING

Looking for a career change? Want to be part of the most ruthless organisation known to Christian Europe? Look no further for exciting new opportunities

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Grand Inquisitor

**Description:** Overseeing the Inquisition and rooting out insincere converts to Catholicism, you will aid and encourage the expansion of the Inquisition throughout Spain and beyond. In this vital role, you will also preside over the Council of the Supreme and General Inquisition.

**Skills required:** Good leadership, dedication to returning Spain to Christianity, willing to stay in post for several years. Thick skin.

### Inquisitor

**Description:** Answerable to the Grand Inquisitor. Pay: 60,000 maravedies, to rise as the century progresses. A frontline position, you will spend a good deal of time deliberating verdicts and collecting evidence in the quest to eradicate heresy from Spain.

**Skills required:** No theological training necessary, but must be well versed in the law: university law degree or current position as a tax collector considered a distinct advantage.

### Calificador

**Description:** In this role you will weigh the merits of cases brought before the tribunal. Listening to evidence and deciding if heresy has been committed and arrest warranted will also be within your remit.

**Skills required:** A theological background is customary for this role, along with good listening and decision-making skills.

### Alguacil (Bailiff)

**Description:** You will be responsible for the arrest and jailing of suspects, along with taking possession of their goods. In this role you will also be expected to implement creative ways of extracting a confession, and be prepared to do whatever it takes.

**Skills required:** Perseverance and determination are essential to success in this post. A strong stomach and lack of emotion also a bonus.

### Fiscal (Prosecutor)

**Description:** A job right at the heart of the Inquisition: presenting accusations, investigating rumours and getting the truth out of witnesses, there is never a boring moment in this role. Excellent promotion prospects to Inquisitor.

**Skills required:** Ability to drive the prosecution process. You will also be expected to perform mental and physical torture when required.

### Notary of Property

**Description:** You will be responsible for registering the goods of the accused upon their detention, noting in detail both what they have with them and what other property they have to their name.

**Skills required:** Good record-keeping skills, the ability to tell if property is of worth, neat handwriting preferable.

### Notary of the Secret

**Description:** Required to record the testimony of accused and witnesses, you will be present during interrogations to make a detailed record of all that occurs. A permanent position, it comes with the rare benefits of access to the Inquisitorial archives and security of tenure.

**Skills required:** Attention to detail, ability to write fast and clearly, good memory and organisational skills are all essential to succeed in this post.

### Familiar

**Description:** A lay position, the successful candidate will become an honoured servant of the Inquisition. Particularly suited to members of the nobility or those after a title, benefits include being permitted to carry arms in order to protect Inquisitors and, of course, yourself.

**Skills required:** Must be ready to do your duty at all times. Inclination towards informing not essential but advantageous.



### Voluntary confession

This was the safest bet; confessing freely could mean staying alive, and with a reduced punishment than keeping quiet, although by no means guaranteed.

### Torture

This was to force a confession and not to cause pain per se, but that was little comfort to the accused, especially as no exception was made for age, sex or infirmity.

### Acquittal

Unusual, but not unheard of, the suspect could be acquitted of the charges made against them, leading to their release.

### Suspended

In this instance, the trial was suspended, with the suspect either being released or held in prison until such time that the proceedings recommenced.

### Reconciled

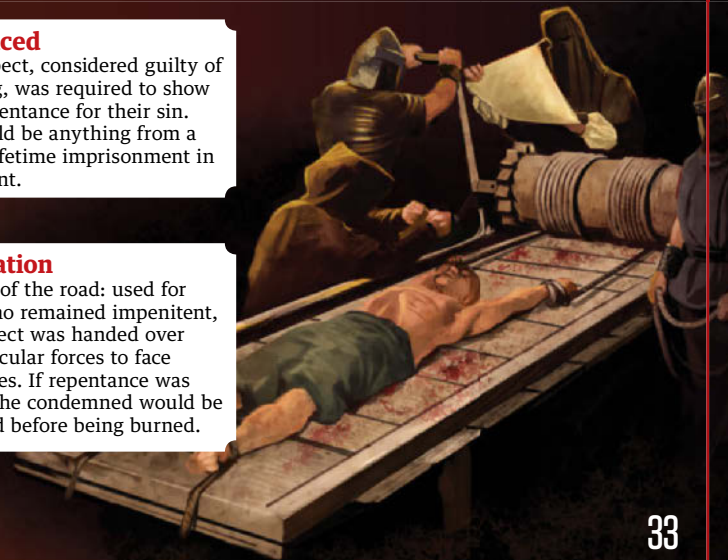
A public ceremony took place where the accused received letters patent to allow them back into the life of the church. Punishment was severe, including confiscation of property and whipping.

### Penanced

The suspect, considered guilty of judaising, was required to show their repentance for their sin. This could be anything from a fine to lifetime imprisonment in a convent.

### Relaxation

The end of the road: used for those who remained impenitent, the suspect was handed over to the secular forces to face the flames. If repentance was shown, the condemned would be strangled before being burned.





# INSIDE A TORTURE CHAMBER

Torture and the Inquisition go hand in hand in the popular imagination. Here are some of the gruesome devices associated with the Inquisition

168

were killed by the Inquisition in Toledo alone during Isabella's lifetime

## FOOT ROASTING

The suspect's feet were covered in fat and then held ever closer to a burning fire, the heat mounting until the pain became unendurable. This is a practice over which there is debate regarding its use by the Inquisition.

## HEAD CRUSHER

As the name suggests, the suspect's head was placed between a metal bar below and a cap above, before the device was turned and tightened to slowly bring the two parts together. The result was excruciating pain, along with possible brain, jaw and eye damage.

## JUDAS CRADLE

This device was composed of a tall thin stall with a triangular shaped seat, on which the suspect was slowly impaled, either by being dropped or rocked on to it to create varying levels of agony. There is now debate over whether this was used in the Inquisition.

## THE RACK

The infamous Inquisitor General Torquemada favoured a stretching rack called a potro. The victim was tied to the wooden frame and their body was stretched as the bars moved in opposite directions, dislocating joints and causing extreme agony.



## PEAR OF ANGUISH

This pear-shaped device was inserted into a chosen bodily orifice. The separate segments were then slowly spread apart inside the victim, stretching and potentially splitting the flesh as it did so.

## WATER CURE

The suspect was placed on a wooden board: nostrils plugged up and their head secured lower than their feet, the mouth was forced open and a cloth placed over it. Water was then poured onto the cloth, emulating the sensation of drowning.



Suspects could remain imprisoned for months or even years before trial, and were not told of the charges against them

## STRAPPADO

The Spanish version of this device was called the garrucha. The wrists were tied behind the back and the victim lifted into the air by the rope attached to a pulley, dislocating the arms. A series of sharp drops could be added for extra suffering, as could weights.



## HERETIC'S FORK

Made of two metal 'fork' sections, one was placed under the chin, the other against the chest. It was impossible for the suspect to fall asleep or to move much without painfully impaling themselves, leading to immense pain and sleep deprivation.



## THUMB SCREWS

This device, simple but effective, was used to crush the fingers of the suspect in an attempt to make them talk. Each time the screw was turned, it tightened further, slowly but surely crushing the fingers within.

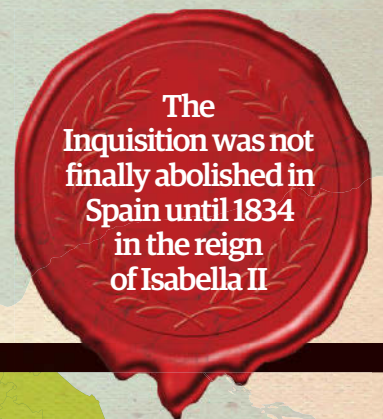


# SPANISH INQUISITION EXECUTIONS 1540-1700



As the Inquisition spread throughout Spanish-held territory, the number of victims rose steadily. Though it's estimated that 3,000 people were executed in total, these are the figures that exist

SPAIN



CANARY ISLANDS



MEXICO & PERU



SARDINIA & SICILY







Convicted heretics were forced to wear a pointed hat called a sanbenito as part of their punishment



During the Inquisition, torture could only be used as a coercive, not punitive, method

Despite the reputation the Spanish Inquisition would later gain, initially it was not entirely unpopular. On the contrary, at a time when the kingdom had been almost torn apart by the instability of civil war, to some it was a relief to see the proof of firm control being established by the new reign of Isabella. This relief, however, proved premature: the people of the kingdom of Castile would live to regret the day the Inquisition was established within their cities.

The Inquisitors, with their distinctive white robes and black hoods, struck first at that well-known hotbed of converso laxity: Seville. At their arrival, mass panic ensued among the converso community, with about 4,000 people fleeing the city. They were right to be afraid. Retribution was swift. Moves were taken to track down those who had fled, while the nobility, under threat of excommunication, informed against those whose whereabouts were known to them.

The first public execution took place in Seville on 6 February 1481. During the spectacle of the auto de fe, six people were burned, a terrifying declaration of the might of the Inquisition and the intention of the monarchy behind it.

With that, the Inquisition spread steadily through Spain, with tribunals set up in Cordoba, Jaen and the religious capital of Toledo by 1485. A set pattern to proceedings was quickly established: firstly, the people of a town were prepared - the fear of God - and by extension the Inquisition - preached from the pulpit for all to hear. Matters officially began with the arrival of the Inquisitors, when the Edict of Grace - a call to come forward and confess - would be read out, and a span of time given to the people of the town to respond. If they confessed their sins and admitted their Judaism, they could hope for redemption. If not, they should expect the full wrath of the Inquisition to fall upon them.

Once a suspect was in custody, the primary aim was to extract a confession. If a person spoke freely, then all to the good. If not, there were ways

of gaining the information required. Torture and the Spanish Inquisition have become virtually synonymous in the popular imagination, and for good reason: a standard 15th-century approach, it was used by the Inquisition in order to gain the all-important admission of guilt. Although technically a suspect could only undergo torture once, there were ways around this restriction - talk of a session being paused or suspended meant that it could be continued the following day without strictly breaking the rules.

Once confession had been obtained, the details of the case were then examined, and verdict and sentence, if necessary, decided. Acquittal, though rare, could sometimes occur. A suspect could likewise be sentenced to perform penance, or the harsher verdict of reconciliation, which could mean indefinite imprisonment, religious incarceration, flogging, or serving on a galley boat. Those who were reconciled were made to wear a yellow gown called a sanbenito, woollen and knee length, and a tall, conical hat called a coroza to advertise to people that they had sinned. This was not even forgotten on death - the sanbenito would be on display in the local church to the shame of the family left behind.

What made the Inquisition so feared was the fact that it thrived on that most deadly of weapons: anonymous accusations. Not only that, but once a confession was made, a suspect was required to name others who had also lapsed, thus giving the Inquisition a steady stream of victims. Refusing or failing to alert the authorities as to the identity or whereabouts of a heretic could also lead to arrest and execution.

Although permission and blessing were initially granted by the pope, the Inquisition was financed and organised by Isabella and Ferdinand themselves. Whether Isabella personally attended an execution ordered by the Inquisition is unknown, but it is undeniable that she knew, and approved of, the methods used by the Inquisitorial machine. Despite this, many of her closest and

most trusted advisers had converted from the Jewish faith, with three secretaries that served the monarchs being from converso families. It was even said that Ferdinand himself had Jewish blood in his veins from converso ancestors.

Despite Isabella's hopes, it became apparent that merely targeting conversos was not enough, and in 1492, all Jews were expelled from Spain. In the decades that followed, the Inquisition spread throughout Spanish-held territory, including Naples, the Spanish Netherlands, and territory held by Spain in the Americas. There is no established figure of how many people in total were affected, though it is estimated that 3,000 people went to the flames during Isabella's reign. The Inquisition, to this day, remains "one of the most cruel and enduring religious persecutions known in the history of Western Europe," the name and its deeds inextricably linked to that of Queen Isabella of Castile.





# *Bluffer's Guide* USA/USSR, 1957-75 The Space Race

## *Did you know?*

The oldest man to walk on the Moon was 47-year-old Alan Shepard, who commanded the Apollo 14 Mission

## Timeline

4 OCTOBER 1957



Sputnik 1 becomes the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth. A Soviet launch, it is shortly followed by another USSR craft, Sputnik 2, and then NASA's Explorer I.

12 APRIL 1961



The first human in space, Yuri Gagarin, makes a successful 108-minute-long flight around the Earth, becoming an international icon when he lands.

20 JULY 1969



The Apollo Lunar Module touches down on the Moon as NASA completes arguably the most important mission of the entire Space Race.

23 APRIL 1977



The Soviet craft Salyut 1 becomes the first human-crewed space station. The seventh and last Salyut station was replaced by Mir.





### What was it?

As the dust settled on the most destructive war in human history, the competition between the two greatest superpowers on Earth was hotting up. What became known as the Space Race represented the rivalry between the United States of America and the Soviet Union at its most intense, and the USSR began in the ascendancy, successfully launching Sputnik I, the world's first artificial satellite.

The USA responded with Explorer I, which discovered the existence of magnetic radiation belts around the Earth. However, at 6.07am on 12 April 1961, the Space Race moved up a gear as Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space.

With this accomplishment, the communist USSR was seemingly winning out against capitalist USA, but the biggest achievement was still to come. Astronaut Neil Armstrong uttered the now immortal (and commonly misquoted) line: "One small step for a man," on 20 July 1969 and became the first man to walk on the Moon. The Space Race eventually began to wind down in the 1970s and fundamentally ended in July 1975 with the launch of the first US-Soviet joint space flight, Apollo-Soyuz.



### Why did it happen?

The Space Race was just one element of the political and ideological struggle that was the Cold War. With the threat of Nazi Germany now out of the picture, the USA and USSR experienced an escalating hostility between what were now the two most powerful nations on Earth. Away from the Korean War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, another conflict was being fought for technological supremacy. The superior of these undeclared enemies would help decide whether communism or capitalism was the ideology best suited to invent and provide modern technology. From Sputnik I to Apollo 11, both NASA and the Soviet space program pumped millions into their respective agencies, achieving huge feats in the process. The near two-decade-long rivalry was one of the most captivating altercations between the East and West and was a vehicle that caught public imagination and whipped up support for each superpower.



### Who was involved?



#### Alexei Leonov

1934-present

Leonov became the first person to space walk when he stepped out of the Voskhod 3KD Spacecraft on 18 March 1965.



#### Neil Armstrong

1930-2012

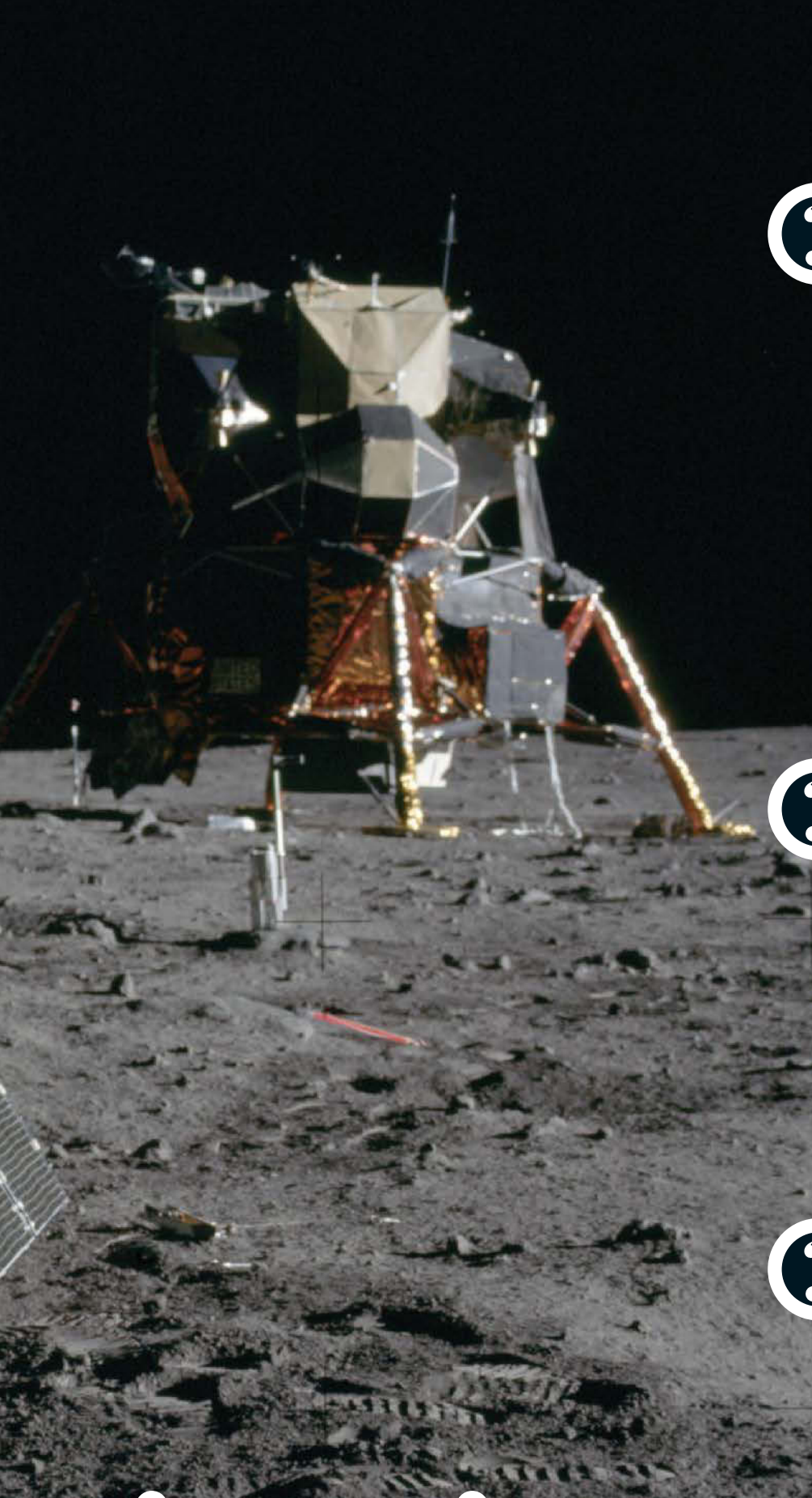
Neil Armstrong will forever be etched into the history books for being the first man on the Moon.



#### Valentina Tereshkova

1937-present

The first civilian to fly in space, Tereshkova had no pilot training prior to being launched into orbit aboard Vostok 6.



Mariner 9 achieves the feat of becoming the first spacecraft to orbit another planet as it narrowly beats the Soviet efforts to navigate Mars.



The joint USA-USSR mission represents a turning point in the notoriously frosty relations between the two nations, marking the end of the Space Race.



### The hospital

35 patients sat nervously in the hospital absent from the carnage unfolding outside. This changed after fire from Zulu rifles set the thatched roof ablaze and warriors burst into the building. The wounded and the soldiers accompanying them had to fight room by room as they made an escape.

### Sweltering conditions

It was an incredibly hot day, but this favoured the British, who had a well inside the perimeter. The Zulus meanwhile had to march 24 kilometres to get to Rorke's Drift and it is likely their increasing fatigue was a result of dehydration among the men, who had an average age of 50.

### Attacking in waves

The saving grace for the British 24th Regiment of Foot was the piecemeal nature of the Zulu attacks, especially later on in the battle. Rorke's Drift was so compact that numbers didn't count for as much as they could have done.

### Broken barricades

The mission station was hardly an impenetrable fortress. To stand any chance of repelling the thousands of attackers, mealie sacks and biscuit boxes were hastily stacked up to form makeshift barriers in which to fire from.

### Medics doing overtime

More defenders were picked off by rifle fire than were killed by Zulu spears and there were already injured men in the compound from past skirmishes. Medics were on call to help wounded soldiers and send them back in to bolster the disciplined yet fragile front line.





### Zulu tactics

The Zulus attacked in a traditional 'bull horn' formation, which aimed to encircle the British while still having a strong centre. This played into the hands of the defenders, who utilised overlapping sectors of fire to relentlessly pummel the Zulus with a wall of bullets.



# THE BATTLE OF RORKE'S DRIFT

ZULU KINGDOM, SOUTH AFRICA  
22 JANUARY 1879

Immortalised in popular culture, the Battle of Rorke's Drift is one of the most heroic last stands of all time. Britain had been aggressive in its pursuit of conquering the southern tip of Africa, yet its recklessness and underestimation of the enemy would nearly cost them dear. The Zulus were determined to drive the British out of their homeland, and going against the wishes of King Cetshwayo, his half brother Dabulamanzi advanced on a small mission station known as Rorke's Drift.

The man in charge of the stronghold was Lieutenant John Chard, and the first the garrison of the 24th Regiment of Foot heard of the impending attack was rifle fire in the distance. This was the dying embers of the Battle of Isandlwana, where Queen Victoria's men were being trounced by the natives. Realising the threat of the fast-approaching storm, the camp was fortified with sacks of grain. Fears escalated after the company's numbers were depleted further by units leaving for the relative safety of Helmkhaar, a nearby town. Now only a brave 154 remained to grit their teeth, say their prayers and man the barricades.

500 Zulus charged the southern side of the mission station, taking heavy fire from the British rifles. They were driven back this time but they would come again in greater numbers. Using their short stabbing spears, the Zulu tactic was to get in close and personal, but they were repelled time and again by a combination of bullets and bayonets. Some of the attackers wielded rifles, but they were by no means trained marksmen.

It soon became clear that the western side of Rorke's Drift would bear witness to the heaviest of the fighting. The hospital was located here and its thatched roof was quickly set ablaze, and the patients inside were trapped in the inferno. As the Zulus flooded in, the wounded, armed with only bayonets, held the attackers off as others desperately hacked through the stone walls to get to safety.

Night was now beginning to fall and the British soldiers were forced into a small bastion in the centre of the stronghold. As the hospital continued to burn bright, the Zulu assault was unforgiving but the British stood firm. Fighting tooth and nail, the brutal attack was somehow held off, and as the clock struck midnight, the attacks began to subside. This was a relief to the British, who were down to just 600 rounds. They had started with 24,000. Piecemeal skirmishes lasted until the early hours but it soon became apparent that after 12 hours of hell, the company had lived to fight another day.

Zulus were spotted again at about 7am but no attack followed. The loss at Isandlwana and the victory at Rorke's Drift had completely different outcomes but both contributed to the escalation of the Anglo-Zulu War. 11 Victoria Crosses were handed out to the British soldiers, but it remains a controversial subject. The carnage resulted in huge amounts of reinforcements being sent in, and by the summer of 1879, Cetshwayo had been defeated and sent into exile. The independent Zulu Kingdom was annexed into the empire on which the sun did not set.





## British Army

TROOPS 154



### LIEUTENANT JOHN CHARD

#### LEADER

Only arriving three days before the battle, Chard was the highest ranking officer entrusted with defending Rorke's Drift.

**Strengths** Prior experience of war in Bermuda and Malta.

**Weakness** Little time or supplies to prepare strong defences.



### BRITISH SOLDIER

#### UNIT

Experienced and loyal to the queen, the English and Welsh defenders would fight on to the bitter end.

**Strengths** Disciplined and immaculately trained.

**Weakness** Disheartened by extremely high Zulu numbers.



### MARTINI-HENRY BREECH-LOADING RIFLE

#### KEY WEAPON

The weapon of choice for the majority of the British Army was a staple of colonial warfare.

**Strengths** Superior to any weapon wielded by the Zulus.

**Weakness** Tendency for cartridges to stick in the firing mechanism.

### 02 Final defences

Bags of corn are stacked high around the perimeter along with boxes of biscuits. The hurried and ramshackle defences are completed with two wagons built into the south wall. Reserve ammunition is amassed and bayonets are fixed to rifles. All that is left to do is wait for the lookout's signal.

### 03 150 remain

A huge blow to the defence of Rorke's Drift comes at 5pm, when Captain Stevenson, Lieutenant Alfred Henderson and their contingent of native allies take their leave. The numbers dwindle from 450 to approximately 150, including those who are in the hospital.

### 01 Enemy sighted

At 8am, a force of Zulus is seen on the Nqutu plateau, overlooking the mission station. Lieutenant Chard makes it to Rorke's Drift at midday and is given control of the stronghold after his superiors leave for Helpmekaar. After hearing gunshots later in the afternoon, the decision is taken to man the defences, and with the help of Lieutenant Bromhead, Rorke's Drift is readied for battle.



### 04 First waves of attack

At 5.30pm, the Zulus launch their attack. The initial charges focus on the south side of Rorke's Drift and are pinned down by the British Army's disciplined rifle fire. The attackers have been contained, but not for long.

### 05 Buckling under bull horn pressure

As the Zulus pile in on the south side, flank attacks begin to weaken the defences on the thinly defended north-western edge of the compound. This, in addition to shots from Zulu snipers on the Oscarberg hill, begins to take its toll on the British. As the Zulus advance, the hospital is evacuated and many of the injured are killed in the process as the attackers swarm in.



## 10 The Zulus retreat

The attackers have no idea that the British are down to their last few bullets. With the body count racking up, the leaders decide to call off the assault. If they had pushed just a little bit harder, they may have taken the compound. After 12 hours of fighting, the attacks cease completely at 4.30am, and the British have lasted through one hell of a night.

## 09 Down to the last few bullets

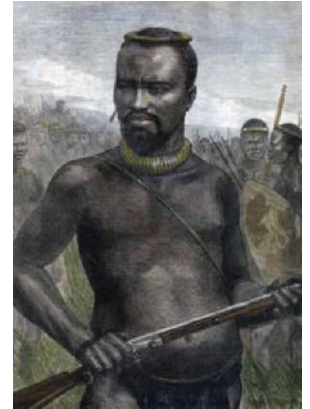
Another attack would surely finish the British off, but the exhausted Zulus can now only muster sporadic attacks. This is perfect timing, with not much fight left in the British.

## 08 The storehouse

Away from the carnage unfolding at the barricade, the Zulus are mounting one last attack on the storehouse. Their advance is curtailed by Second Corporal Francis Attwood, who is picking off the attackers from a window and preventing them from setting a second building on fire. Back in the main fray, the outer wall has been abandoned and the final stage of the battle is about to take place.

## Zulu Kingdom

**TROOPS** 4,500



## DABULAMANZI KAMPAUNDE

### LEADER

The half brother of the Zulu King, he defied direct orders for the opportunity to defeat the British at Rorke's Drift.

**Strengths** Headstrong desire to drive the British from his homeland.

**Weakness** 'Bull horn' formation ineffectual against British bullets.



## ZULU WARRIOR

### UNIT

A citizen army called up at times of war. They received their training from the legendary Zulu warrior and king, Shaka.

**Strengths** Unrivalled skill with an assegai spear.

**Weakness** Minimal training in wielding firearms.

## ASSEGAI

### KEY WEAPON

A light spear made of wood with an iron tip that was thrust into an enemy's abdomen.

**Strengths** Easy to wield. Could be thrown or held.

**Weakness** Shorter than a bayonet so difficult to get in close.

## 06 Fire and flame

As dusk is nearing, the hospital's thatched roof is set on fire. Fighting continues through the evening and the inferno helps illuminate the battle. As the fire begins to subside, the attacks show their first signs of weakness, as the warriors are now charging in intermittent waves rather than a full-frontal assault. As the attacks become more piecemeal, the British can anticipate where the waves will come from.

## 07 The final charge

Another wall has been built in preparation for one last stand. The rampart only allows the Zulus through in narrow waves, which helps to nullify their strength in numbers. The barrier is so high that several of the British soldiers now have an elevated position to fire from.







From murderous fake bears to multi-barrelled guns and lethal umbrellas, anyone from monks to monarchs can fall foul of a determined assassin. It's not all lone gunmen or highly trained terrorists though and sometimes, even the most crazy scheme hits its target

Written by Catherine Curzon



Jenatsch's demise inspired many literary works, and one version told that his murderer was actually 'Lucrecia' von Planta, the daughter of his murdered rival Pompeius



## Jörg Jenatsch

01

One of the most controversial figures of his day, Swiss politician and military leader Jörg Jenatsch had been implicated in the brutal murder of a rival and even killed

his own comrade, but his occasional bursts of terrifying violence did nothing to stop his rise to the top. What did stop it was a man in a bear costume who accosted Jenatsch at a carnival in Churl. The unknown assassin successfully buried his axe in the politician's skull, ending his career and his life. The moral of this story? Never trust a bear with a very sharp axe.



The explosion didn't kill Heydrich immediately, and he emerged from the vehicle to return fire on his assassins

## Reinhard Heydrich

02

When the conspirators behind the Operation Anthropoid

assassination plot attempted to shoot the man known as the Butcher of Prague as he drove through the city, their gun jammed. Heydrich ordered his driver to stop and was about to confront the gunmen when one of them, Jan Kubiš, hurled a bomb at the car. This time there was no mishap and Heydrich was badly wounded in the explosion. He died a week later from sepsis, poisoned by shrapnel from the springs and horsehair upholstery of his car's seats. Kubiš was later shot while evading arrest.



When he arrived at the governor's residence after the first assassination attempt, Ferdinand exclaimed: "So this is how you welcome your guests — with bombs?!"



### Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria



When Archduke Franz Ferdinand visited Sarajevo in the company of his wife, Sophie, they were greeted by an assassin who hurled a hand grenade at their car. The couple escaped injury and, after a brief stop to gather themselves, set out to visit those who had been injured in the blast. Unfortunately their driver took the wrong route and drove straight past the café where Gavrilo Princip, one of the co-conspirators behind the assassination attempt, was drowning his sorrows. Princip dashed out into the street and shot the couple dead. He died in prison four years later.

### Grigori Rasputin



Suspicious of the influence the mad monk wielded over Tsarina Alexandra and the royal household, concerned nobles decided to take out the holy man once and for all. In a conspiracy led by Prince Felix Yusupov, Rasputin was lured to the prince's palace where he was poisoned, shot multiple times, beaten and finally wrapped in a heavy cloth and thrown into the Malaya Nevka River. Although the conspirators, some of whom were later exiled, believed him to be dead at the time, it later transpired that the monk may have actually died by drowning, having survived poison, a beating and several bullets.

### How to murder a mystic

Grigori Rasputin has become iconic thanks to the bizarre circumstances of his death that seem to suggest he was more Superman than mad monk

This post-mortem photograph shows the bullet wound to Rasputin's head



- |  |   |   |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Step 1</b><br/>Rasputin is lured to Prince Yusupov's palace, where an array of wine and delicacies laced with cyanide await him.</p> | <p><b>Step 2</b><br/>Reluctant to eat the cakes on offer, the plan looks set to fail until the monk finally begins to sip at the poisoned wine.</p> | <p><b>Step 3</b><br/>With the poison having no effect, a panicked Yusupov shoots Rasputin, apparently killing him. Yusupov summons the other conspirators from elsewhere in the palace.</p> | <p><b>Step 4</b><br/>Miraculously surviving the poison and bullets, Rasputin gets to his feet and attacks Yusupov before dashing from the palace and into the night.</p> | <p><b>Step 5</b><br/>Co-conspirator Vladimir Purishkevich shoots Rasputin multiple times. Apparently definitely dead, the monk is returned to the palace and beaten by Yusupov.</p> | <p><b>Step 6</b><br/>Wrapped in heavy cloth and with hands bound, Rasputin's corpse is thrown into the Malaya Nevka River, which flows to the sea.</p> | <p><b>Step 7</b><br/>The following day, Rasputin's body is recovered from the river. Tsar Nicholas II forbids an official inquest, fearing that it will make heroes of the assassins.</p> |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|



# Fidel Castro

**05**

Perhaps the most famous assassination attempts are those made by the CIA on the life of Fidel Castro, who governed Cuba from 1959 to 2008. Some of the plots would be better suited to an absurd comedy than a serious political plot and ranged from exploding seashells to poisoned milkshakes and beyond. Alongside assassination attempts, efforts to discredit Castro by making his beard fall out or sending him on a public LSD trip were hatched. All failed or were abandoned before they were even attempted. At the time of writing, Castro remains resolutely alive, having lived through 11 US presidents.

## 20 ways to kill Castro

According to the former head of Cuba's Intelligence Directorate, the CIA came up with 638 ways to kill Castro. Here are just a few

1. Exploding cigar
2. Spray broadcasting studio with hallucinogens
3. Dust shoes with thallium, causing beard loss
4. Mafia hit
5. Leaflet drop over Cuba offering a bounty for Castro's murder
6. Poisoned pills
7. Poisoned cigar
8. More poisoned pills
9. Poisoned wetsuit
10. Poisoned milkshake
11. Ballpoint pen rigged with a poisoned syringe
12. Poisoned scuba regulator
13. Exploding conch shell
14. Sniper rifle
15. A mistress armed with poison - she loses her nerve
16. Poisoned handkerchief
17. Poisoned tea
18. Poisoned coffee
19. Poisoned ice cream
20. Another sniper rifle

Castro appears amused to learn of a plot to kill him



## How an umbrella gun works

### TRIGGER

Like any conventional firearm, the umbrella gun needs a trigger and this one is concealed in the handle.

### LINKAGE

The spring-operated piston opens a valve on a concealed cylinder of compressed air. This will propel the pellet from the gun.

### THE PELLET

When the valve opens, the compressed air propels the pellet from the umbrella gun like a bullet.

### AFTERMATH

The pellet's coating melts at 37 degrees celsius, ensuring the ricin is released into the bloodstream.

### COMPRESSED AIR

Without the compressed air behind it, the pellet would not leave the barrel with enough force to pierce the skin of the victim.

### SPRING

Just like in an air rifle, a strong spring pushes down on the linkage that operates the mechanism.

## Georgi Markov

**06**

As Bulgarian dissident and defector Georgi Markov waited for a bus, he felt a sharp sting in the back of his leg.

Smarting, he turned to see a man retrieving a dropped umbrella and hurrying to climb into a taxi, which then sped away. Where the sting had occurred, Markov noticed a raised, painful spot, and by that evening, he had been admitted to hospital. Four days later, he died from ricin that had been contained in a pellet fired into his thigh from the now-notorious umbrella gun. His alleged assassin, Francesco Gullino, was never tried for the crime.





20 JULY 1944

## Countdown to catastrophe

Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg's audacious plot to kill Hitler might have changed the course of history. Instead, it went disastrously wrong

10am

● **Stauffenberg arrives at the Wolf's Lair**

Wrongly believing that the Gestapo have discovered the plot to kill Hitler, Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg decides to put Operation Valkyrie into action, suspecting that this might be his one and only chance.

12.20pm

● **The bomb is prepared**

Stauffenberg visits the bathroom and attempts to arm the bombs. Missing his left eye, his right hand and two of his remaining fingers, it proves fiddly work and he is forced to go into the meeting with only one bomb primed.

12.30pm

● **The bomb is planted**

Noticing that the disabled Stauffenberg is struggling to carry the briefcase, Major Ernst John von Freyend carries it into the meeting room for him, unwittingly placing the bomb next to Hitler. When it detonates, Freyend survives.

12.30pm

● **The conference begins**

Thanks to the hot weather, the meeting is not held in the underground bunker, but upstairs in the main room of the Wolf's Lair. Besides Hitler, more than 20 others are present including administrative and military staff.



## Adolf Hitler

**METHOD:** BOMB HIDDEN IN A BRIEFCASE

**WHEN:** 20 JULY 1944



In a plot better known as Operation Valkyrie, Hitler was targeted by conspirators who wanted to seize control of Germany and make peace with the Allies. Led by Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg, a German noble and decorated army officer, a scheme was hatched to blow up the Führer with two bombs concealed within a briefcase. Only one bomb was ready on the day, and when it exploded, it killed four people - but Hitler wasn't one of them. The Führer survived with scorched trousers and a perforated eardrum; Stauffenberg and his co-conspirators were executed on 21 July 1944.



In this early version of a letter bomb, a hatbox was rigged with three loaded pistols. When the lid was opened, the guns would

fire as one and kill the recipient, who happened to be the lord treasurer, Robert Harley. The Bandbox Plot, as it became known, was foiled when author Jonathan Swift spotted the threads that were attached to the triggers and cut them, thus disarming the booby-trap. The would-be assassins were never apprehended, and both Swift and Harley enjoyed a swell of popularity and support when news of the foiled plot reached the public.

## Emperor Chandragupta Maurya



Fearing that Emperor Chandragupta Maurya might fall victim to assassination, his assistants secretly fed him

poison to build up his immunity. Unaware that his food was laced with deadly toxins, he shared a particularly tasty morsel with his heavily pregnant wife, Durdhara. She was not immune and died within minutes, leaving her husband to cut her still-living child from her womb. According to legend, the poison had already reached the baby, and he had been left with a blue bindu on his forehead. He was named Bindusara in recognition of his miraculous survival.

21 JULY 1944

12.37pm

**The decoy phone call**  
With the clock ticking, Stauffenberg receives a pre-planned telephone call and makes his excuses. Instead of taking the call and then returning to the meeting, he is seen leaving the Wolf's Lair by car as the bomb explodes.

12.38pm

**The bomb is moved**  
Unable to see a map on the table, Colonel Heinz Brandt moves the briefcase out of the way, placing it behind a thick, strong table leg. When the bomb explodes, this decision will cost Brandt his life.

12.42pm

**The bomb detonates**  
When the bomb goes off, the room is destroyed but the table shields Hitler from the blast, saving his life. Among the four fatalities is Brandt, who moved the briefcase. He dies the following day.

12.45pm

**The aftermath**  
As the smoke clears, it is apparent that the plan has failed. With only a perforated eardrum and some singed and torn trousers, Adolf Hitler has survived Operation Valkyrie, and retribution will be swift.

4.00pm

**Stauffenberg in Berlin**  
Initially believing that Hitler is dead, the conspirators are dismayed to hear the Führer make a live radio broadcast. Following a gun battle in which Stauffenberg is wounded, they are arrested and immediately court-martialled.

12.10am

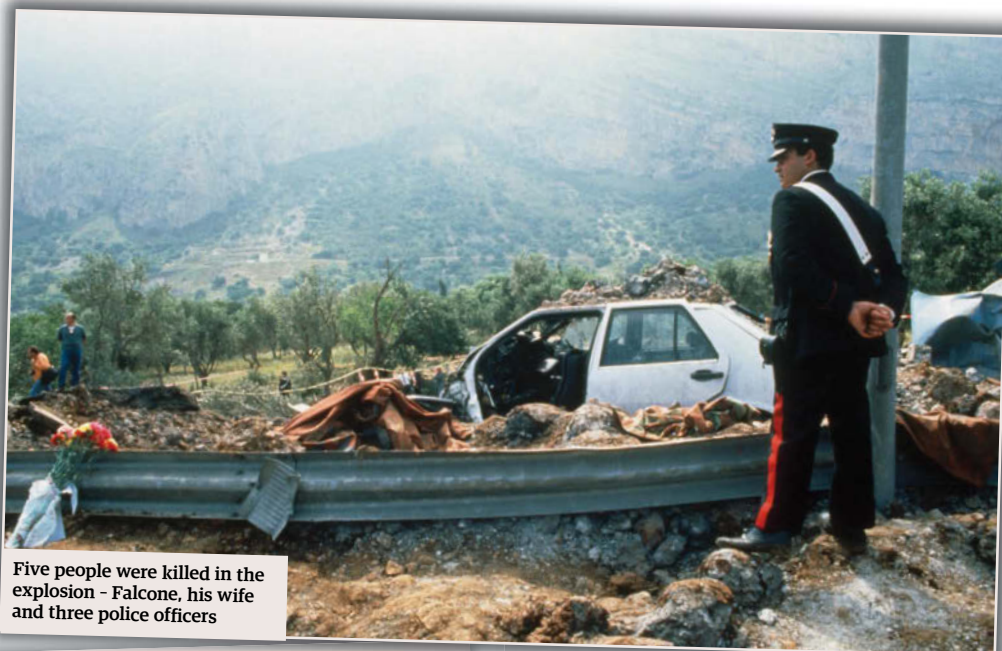
**Conspirators executed**  
Less than 12 hours after the bomb detonated, Stauffenberg and his co-conspirators are executed by firing squad in Berlin. Historians agree that, had the second bomb also detonated, Hitler would almost certainly have been killed.



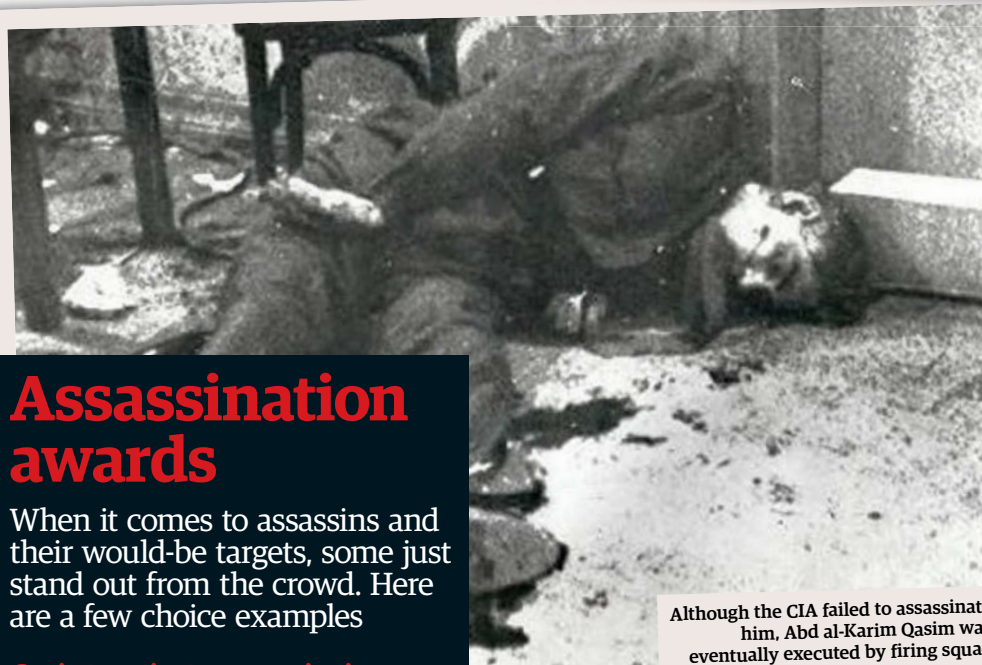
## Giovanni Falcone

10

When Italian magistrate and prosecutor Giovanni Falcone set his sights on bringing high-ranking Mafia bosses to justice, his quarry struck back with breathtaking ferocity. As police officers accompanied Falcone and his wife on a drive along the A29 motorway in Sicily, assassins triggered an explosion so strong that it registered on earthquake monitors. As half a ton of explosives blew a crater in the road, Mafia boss Salvatore Riina threw a party to celebrate the murders. The outraged Sicilian public called for justice and Riina was sentenced to spend his life behind bars for plotting the murders on the A29.



Five people were killed in the explosion - Falcone, his wife and three police officers



Although the CIA failed to assassinate him, Abd al-Karim Qasim was eventually executed by firing squad

## Assassination awards

When it comes to assassins and their would-be targets, some just stand out from the crowd. Here are a few choice examples

### Craziest reaction to an assassination attempt: Theodore Roosevelt

When Theodore Roosevelt was shot in the chest during a visit to Milwaukee, he put off hospital treatment in favour of delivering his 90-minute speech to an astonished crowd. His life was saved when the bullet was slowed by a spectacles case and thick wad of speech papers in his pocket, preventing it from reaching his heart.

### Most persistent assassin: French OAS

In Paris on 22 August 1962, the OAS (Secret Army Organisation) made an attempt on the life of Charles De Gaulle and his wife. A dozen gunmen blasted his Citroen DS with 140 bullets, killing two outriders and puncturing the tyres. Amazingly, De Gaulle's driver got his passengers to safety. The episode was later fictionalised in *The Day Of The Jackal*.

### Weirdest motivation: John Hinckley Jr

When John Hinckley Jr opened fire on Ronald Reagan on 3 March 1981, his motive was one of the strangest. Obsessed with Jodie Foster after seeing her in *Taxi Driver*, the deluded Hinckley mistakenly believed that killing the president was the surefire way to impress the actress he adored. Instead, he remains in a secure hospital to this day.

## Abd al-Karim Qasim

11

Determined to end Iraqi Prime Minister Abd al-Karim Qasim's time in office, the CIA came up with an audacious plan. They posted a personally monogrammed handkerchief liberally seasoned with brucellosis - a bacteria that can cause a long-lasting infection with flu-like symptoms - to the prime minister, reasoning that he would not be able to resist the gift. Even if the bacteria didn't kill Qasim, it would certainly put him out of action for months and ensure someone else took his place. Whether Qasim ever received the handkerchief is unknown, but he remained in power until 1963 when a firing squad succeeded where the CIA had failed.

## Empress Elisabeth of Austria, aka Sisi

12

Famed for her tiny 19-inch waist, Empress Elisabeth of Austria had become known to the world as Sisi, a troubled woman obsessed with her own beauty. When anarchist Luigi Lucheni stabbed Sisi during a trip to Geneva, it initially appeared that she was barely injured. In fact, her corsets had stemmed the flow of blood from her chest and she was mortally wounded. Freed from her tight-laced stays, Sisi bled to death from the fatal blow that had pierced her heart. Her assassin was arrested and imprisoned, where he later committed suicide.



Sisi was stabbed with very thin sharpened needle file that was four inches long





The co-conspirators in Gustav III's assassination all wore black masks

## Gustav III of Sweden

**13**

When Gustav III received a death threat while attending a masquerade ball at Stockholm's Royal Opera House, he laughed it off as the latest of many hoaxes.

Less than an hour later, he was surrounded by three men and shot in the back. The gun was loaded with a deadly cocktail of balls, nails, scrap lead and iron. Though Gustav appeared set to survive, the wound turned septic and he contracted fatal pneumonia. The man who pulled the trigger, Jacob Johan Anckarström, was later executed for the assassination while his accomplices were imprisoned.

## President William McKinley

**14**

Determined to be a man of the people, President McKinley agreed to meet the public at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. To Leon Czolgosz, this seemed the perfect opportunity to win some publicity for his anarchist cause. With a gun concealed beneath a handkerchief, Czolgosz waited in line until he reached the president, at which point he shot McKinley twice. Although McKinley survived the initial shooting, days later he succumbed to gangrene. Czolgosz went to the electric chair.



Doctors were optimistic McKinley would survive the attempt. Alas, this was not to be the case

18 people were killed in Fieschi's attempt on Louis-Philippe's life



## History hit list

Being targeted by one assassin is bad enough, but there are some historical figures who have suffered more than their fair share of attempts on their lives



### Queen Victoria

#### Assassination attempts: 7

Whether fame hungry, tired of life or just plain insane, six gunmen and one cane-wielding assailant failed to kill the hardy and popular queen.



### Charles de Gaulle

#### Assassination attempts: 31

With an assortment of snipers, explosives and gunfire, shadowy political groups tried and failed to remove the French president permanently from office.



### Adolf Hitler

#### Assassination attempts: 42

From political rivals to the resistance, Hitler had enemies all over the place yet still managed to dodge bombs, gunmen and even poison.



### Zog of Albania

#### Assassination attempts: 55+

Despite hundreds of blood feuds placing a price on his head, the Albanian president proved absurdly hard to kill and even returned fire on one assassin.



### Fidel Castro

#### Assassination attempts: 638

During the Cold War, the USA desperately wanted communist Castro out. Despite exploding cigars, poisoned ballpoints and hundreds of schemes, he held onto power for 50 years.

## Louis-Philippe of France



**15**

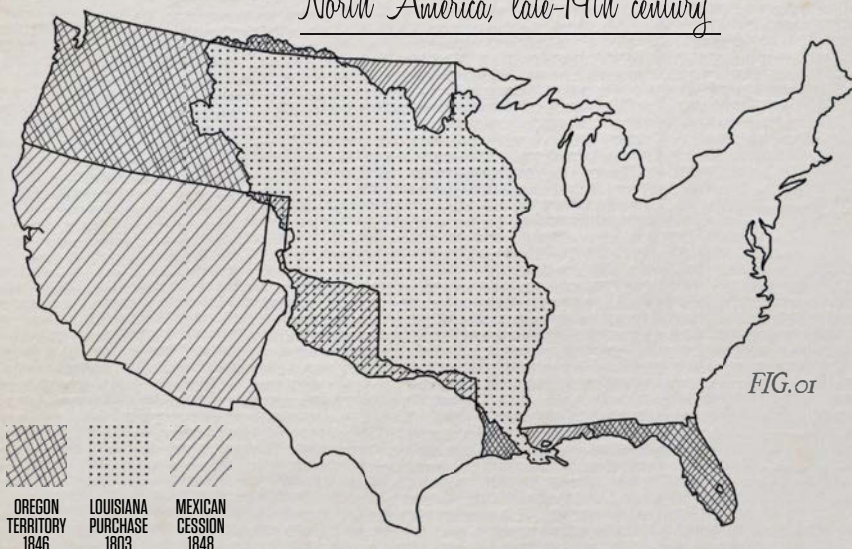
Giuseppe Marco Fieschi's machine infernale was a bit of DIY that was far from being an engineering marvel. A rudimentary volley gun, it was constructed of 25 gun barrels on a wooden frame that would fire simultaneously at the king as he passed along the street beneath Fieschi's hiding place. In the event, only some of the barrels fired, while others exploded and seriously wounded Fieschi, who went to the guillotine for his efforts. Although 18 people died and 22 were injured, Louis-Philippe suffered only a small graze.



# Time Traveller's Handbook

## THE WILD WEST

*North America, late-19th century*



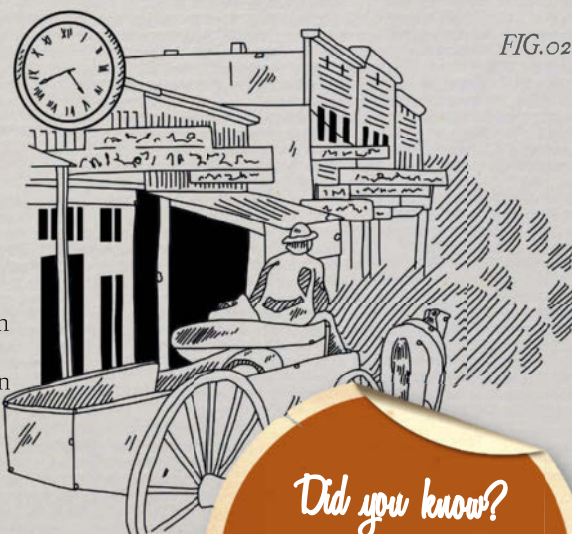
New England is a godly land of rolling pasture ripe with opportunity. Settlers flood in from Europe looking to start new lives, lawmakers forge a career in a new country that rewards hard graft and talent rather than class, while traders and trappers up and down the rest of the Atlantic coast amass fortunes from the bounty of untouched natural resources on offer. Yet for all the tantalising fruits

of blossoming civilisation in the East, the untainted Wild West beckons.

Monarchs might have planted stakes in these territories, but millions of square miles of plains, mountains and their inhabitants still bow to no one but mother nature. For those desperate or brave enough, a hard and rewarding life could await - but only a fool sets out into this wilderness unprepared.

### WHERE TO STAY

Although Deadwood in South Dakota was only founded in 1876 and is very rough around the edges, it's mighty prosperous. Ever since Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer found gold in the Black Hills, the Gold Rush has descended on this southern region of Dakota. You'll have to take your chances with gunslinging bandits, con artists and native American Indians, but there are riches to be made. However, not out of panning for gold (that's a mug's game) but selling the treasure hunters their pans, furs, supplies and whisky at the end of a hard day.



*Did you know?*  
A 7kg 'yellow rock' found in 1799 was sold for \$3.50 - the gold nugget was worth \$3,600

### Dos & Don'ts

- ✓ Arm yourself.**  
Not every town allows people to freely carry guns, Deadwood included. But outside town, packing a six-shooter can mean the difference between life and death.
- ✓ Work together.**  
Whether you're putting a traveller up for the night or pulling together to raise a barn, being a community is a necessary part of Frontier settlement.
- ✓ Tell stories.**  
Campfire stories aren't just a way for cowboys to pass the time and raise morale on a long trail, they impart useful information about the local area, like Indian territory to avoid and where a watering hole is.
- ✓ Keep your eye on the weather.**  
Blue skies can turn torrential in a heartbeat on the plains as storms spill over from the Rockies and quickly sweep across the flat expanse. Don't get caught out.
- ✗ Leave home without your saddlebag.**  
This contains your basic survival kit: a tinderbox for starting fires, spare ammunition, emergency rations and some rope. On the prairies, you're in trouble without it.
- ✗ Go into the Black Hills.**  
They're known as the 'Badlands' for good reason. It's Lakota Indian territory, and gold prospectors are taking their chances with wild animals and outlaws.
- ✗ Open a brothel.**  
Deadwood's brothel, the 'Gem Theater' is a den of iniquity home to Seth Bullock's nemesis Al Swearengen. You don't want to upset either of these men.
- ✗ Forget your Dutch oven.**  
On longer journeys, this versatile cast iron kettle can be stacked to cook several courses: roasting, frying, baking and boiling complete meals.



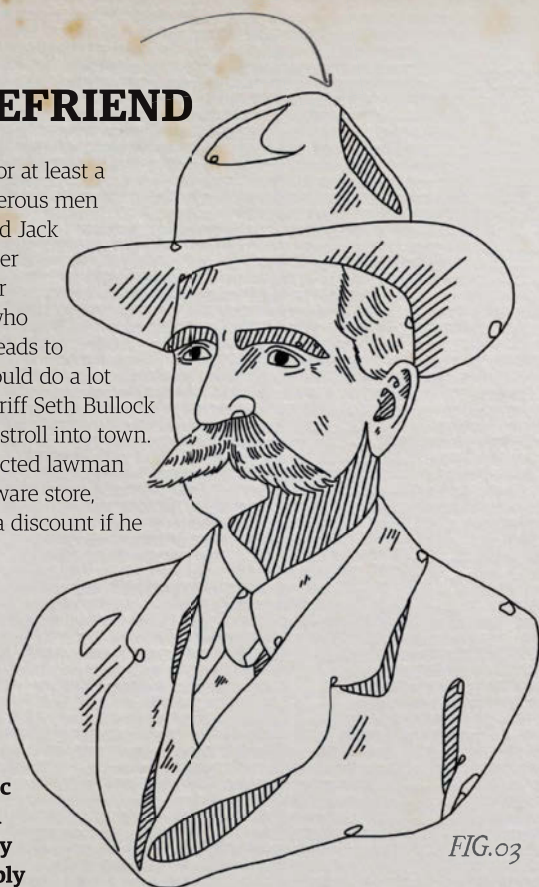
## WHO TO BEFRIEND

### The sheriff

Deadwood is home to (or at least a watering hole for) dangerous men like Wild Bill Hickok and Jack McCall, as well as frontier opportunists looking for legitimate occupation who aren't afraid to bump heads to get their way. So you could do a lot worse than to have Sheriff Seth Bullock at your back when you stroll into town. He's a thoroughly respected lawman and also runs the hardware store, so you might even get a discount if he likes you.

### Extra tip:

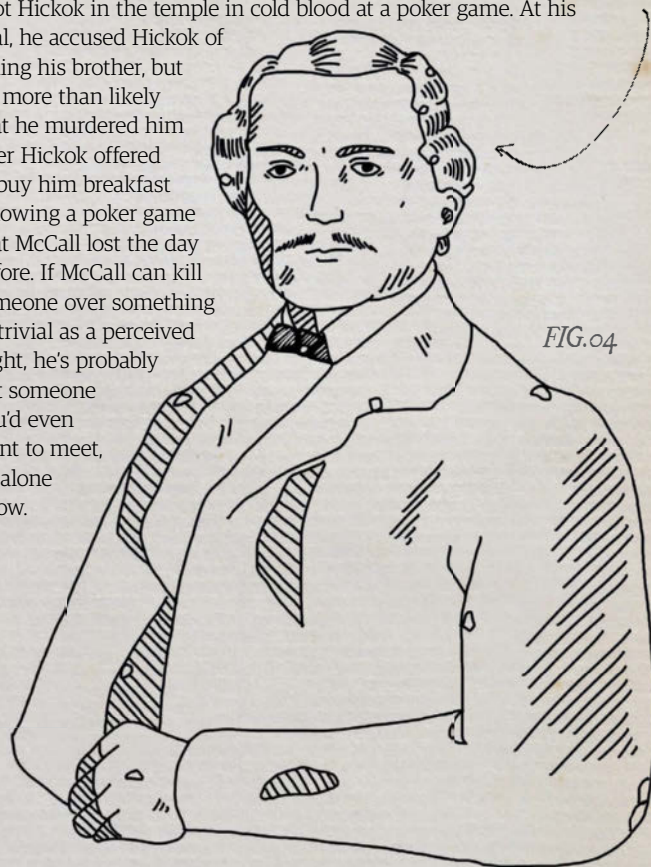
**Bullock is as much a businessman as he is the sheriff of Deadwood, and the same uncompromising ethic has seen him succeed in both vocations. Stay out of trouble and apply yourself to legitimate trade or volunteer to be his deputy, and you should win over a man who will one day be considered a friend to President Theodore Roosevelt.**



## WHO TO AVOID

### Jack McCall

You might have thought that the guy who killed the infamous folk hero 'Wild Bill' Hickok would be someone whose hand you'd like to shake. The enemy of your enemy must be your friend, right? But McCall, a former buffalo hunter known as 'Crooked Nose Jack', shot Hickok in the temple in cold blood at a poker game. At his trial, he accused Hickok of killing his brother, but it's more than likely that he murdered him after Hickok offered to buy him breakfast following a poker game that McCall lost the day before. If McCall can kill someone over something as trivial as a perceived slight, he's probably not someone you'd even want to meet, let alone know.

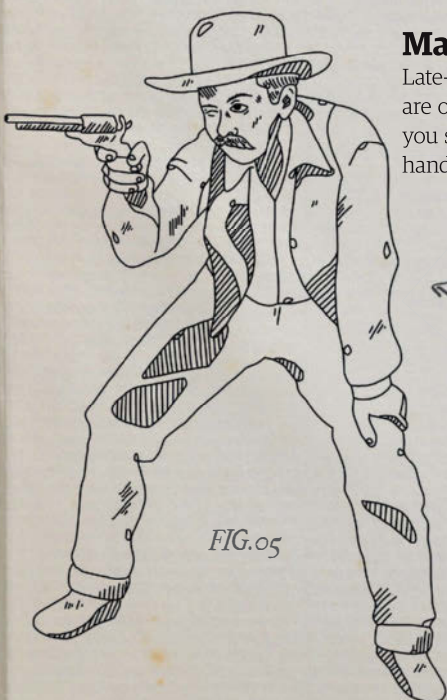


## Helpful Skills

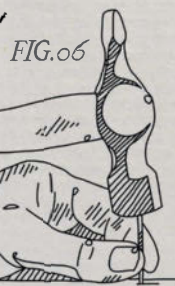
Don't even think about moving out west without these skills under your belt

### Marksmanship

Late-19th-century guns in the Old West are often unreliable so, at the very least, you should know how to maintain and handle a rifle and revolver.

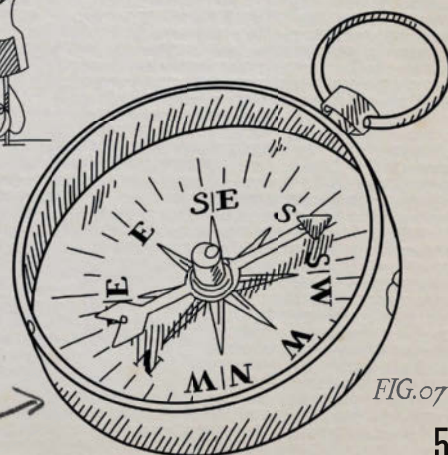


**Construction**  
Frontier settlers usually make their own shelter, so at the end of your journey, if you can't build your own house, you should at least be able to patch it up yourself when the roof leaks.



### Orienteering

Nothing is going to get you killed quicker than getting lost. Having a good sense of direction will help avoid this - map-reading skills even more so.





# The weird world of airships

Written by Peter Wolfgang Price

Pioneering aircraft that captured the imagination of a generation, airships have a brief but action-packed history

**T**he accepted future of air travel today is firmly in the hands of planes, but at the end of the 19th century, it was airships that held the keys to the sky. Floating leisurely above the clouds, the story of these craft has often been forgotten and sidelined in favour of fixed-wing aviation achievements, but remain a key part of humanity's history of flight.

1784

## Balloonmania strikes Europe

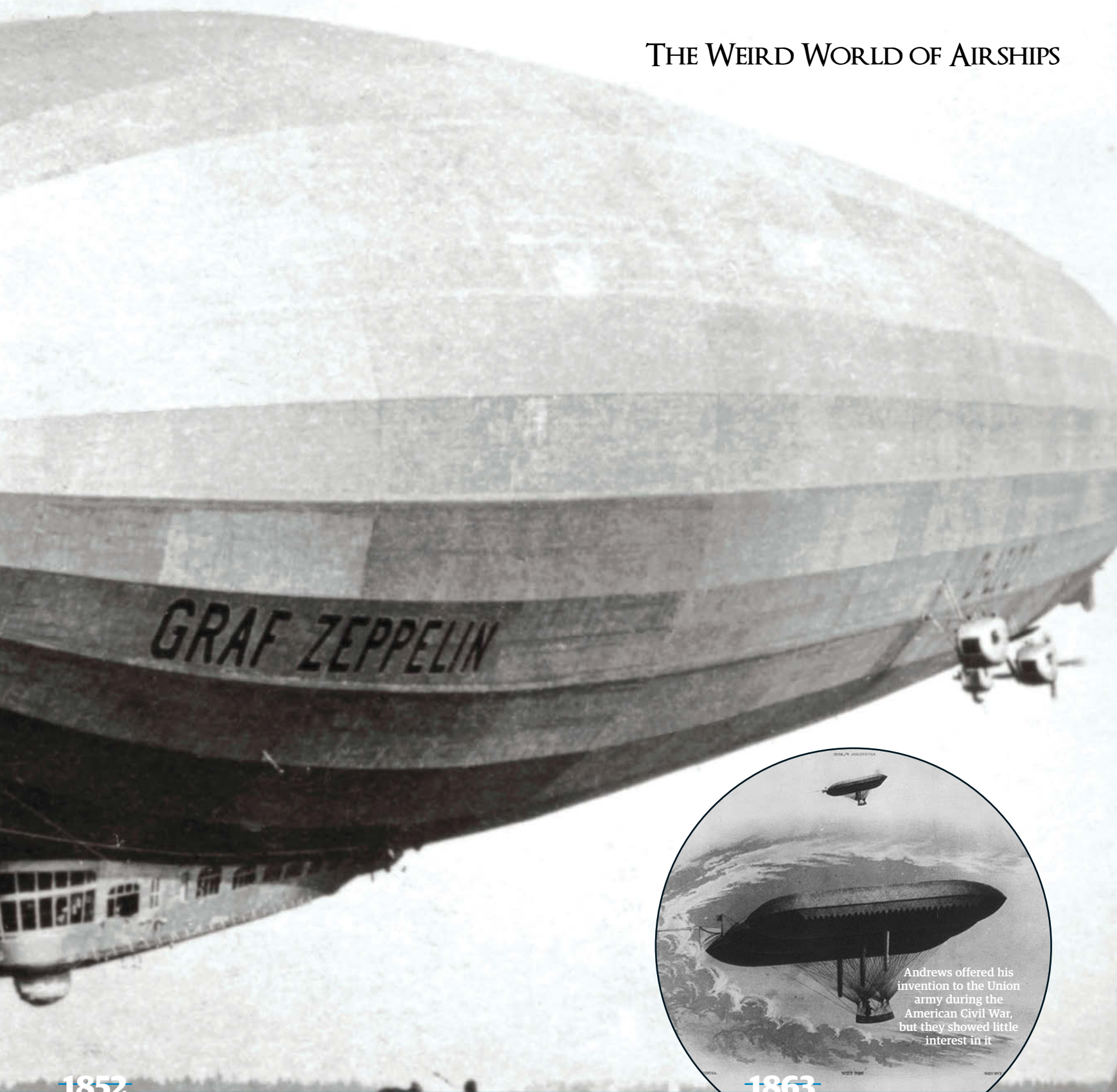
Jean Pierre Blanchard was a Frenchman who dreamed of flight. Owner of an inquisitive mind, he unsuccessfully attempted to develop manual-powered aeroplanes and helicopters before finding fame with another aviation idea: hot air balloons. In March 1784, Blanchard first took to the skies in a home-made balloon, a year after the first successful balloon flight by the Montgolfier Brothers. In 1785, he teamed up with an American physician, Dr John Jeffries, and lifting off from Dover Castle, flew over the English Channel to France. The journey took a

leisurely two-and-a-half hours and was a world first. Blanchard's flights triggered 'balloonmania' among the public with all manner of balloon memorabilia being produced. However, Blanchard would suffer an unfortunate end when he had a heart attack mid-air in 1808. Plummeling 15 metres to the ground caused massive injury that he would never recover from, and he died the next year.



Blanchard's successful crossing of the Channel made him a celebrity





1852

## A change in direction

Just 51 years before the Wright Brothers conquered the skies, the first powered flight in history was taking place. A French engineer, Jules Henri Giffard, had solved a major problem with balloon travel: controlled and steerable propulsion. Without this, a balloon ride was essentially a one-way trip. Creating the world's first powered and steerable airship, called a 'dirigible' from the French word for steerable, Giffard had opened the world up to the concept of lighter-than-air travel. The gas used in balloons at this time was hydrogen, which

was highly flammable and dangerous, but was otherwise lighter than air, allowing for balloons filled with it to float. To power his dirigible, Giffard used a steam engine specially designed with a downwards-facing funnel and mixed exhaust fumes so as to reduce the chance of sparking - just one of which could vaporise the volatile hydrogen. Producing three horsepower and able to reach a top speed of more than nine kilometres per hour, the engine was about as powerful as a modern iron.

1863

## Losing power

An aviator and airship inventor, Solomon Andrews had an unconventional approach to airship construction. His craft, called the Aereon, would use air currents as propulsion rather than an engine to glide through the air. This novel idea was never fully realised as the company went bankrupt after the American Civil War. An attempt to reinvent the concept in the 1960s also failed.



## Birth of the Zeppelin

Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin was an aircraft manufacturer who pioneered rigid airship design at the turn of the 20th century. His passion for lighter-than-air travel was kindled in the crucible of the American Civil War when, serving as an observational officer, he saw his first hot air balloon. His fervour would reignite years later in 1891 when, aged 52, he resigned from the military and devoted all his attention to airships.

His background as a soldier would see him push for his Zeppelins to have a military application and he is reported to have been dismayed when in 1909 the world's first passenger airline, Deutsche Luftschiffahrts-Aktiengesellschaft (DELAG), or German Airship Transportation Corporation Ltd, was launched. While still in its infancy, the company focused more on sightseeing, taking passengers on pleasure tours around the German countryside. As interest in Zeppelins grew, DELAG would carry more than 34,000 passengers on over 1,500 flights between 1910 and 1914. Despite having landing fields and hangars located all across Germany, DELAG was prevented from implementing a regularly scheduled intercity service by the outbreak of World War I. Even with this setback, thousands of people had been exposed to airship travel.



## A dark shadow is cast

At the start of the 20th century, the major world powers had high hopes for dirigible technology and what it could bring to the war effort. Initially employed in a support role by both sides in the conflict, airships soon took on another role. Airships gave the world's air forces a viable long-range strategic bomber that could stay airborne for hours at a time. It was the Germans who seized

upon the idea, and from 1915, Zeppelins had robbed Britain of the protection that the English Channel offered and were terrorising its citizens in a strategic aerial bombing campaign. The deliberate bombing of civilians was unheard of before this and public outcry was fierce. A floating bag of extremely flammable gas may not seem like the best asset to use as a bomber, but during the early missions they were actually quite difficult to destroy. Until a special type of ammunition was created that combined explosive and incendiary rounds, bullets were just as likely to pass straight through a Zeppelin's gasbag than ignite it. This heyday would be short lived, however, as aircraft technology was improving at astonishing speed. By the end of the war, airships became obsolete in an offensive capacity but were maintained in reconnaissance roles, and had heralded the way for a new type of warfare: mass civilian bombing.

## German airship production resumes

Germany's surrender in World War I was finalised by the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. This forbade Germany from maintaining any airships that could be used for military purposes and stipulated that any airship still in service be handed over to the Allied Powers. This presented a problem for the Zeppelin business, and their innovative new craft the LZ-120 Bodensee was repossessed and given to Italy to pay war reparations. The company even had to resort to manufacturing aluminium cutlery to stay afloat. The light at the end of the tunnel came when the company managed to secure a manufacturing contract with the US and built the LZ 126, which was flown over to be delivered in August 1924. Ecstatic crowds awaited its arrival and President Coolidge called it an 'Angel of Peace'. This success breathed new life into the Zeppelin Company, with the Locarno Treaties easing the restrictions of airship construction in Germany.

The Zeppelin Company went on to build one of its most famous ships in 1928: the Graf Zeppelin. This huge vessel was more than three times the length of a Boeing 747 and the largest airship ever built at the time. The Graf Zeppelin became the flagship for the Zeppelin Company, making trips to Jerusalem, Britain, Egypt and the Arctic, and made DELAG the first airline company to offer transatlantic trips from Europe to South America. Even though fixed-wing aircraft technology was fast improving, the popularity of the Graf Zeppelin kept airships firmly fixed in the public's mind.



Many early Zeppelins were built in the classic 'cigar' shape



After completing 590 flights the Graf Zeppelin was scrapped for fighter plane parts





Despite helium being the safer gas its higher cost meant that hydrogen was still used until the late 1930s

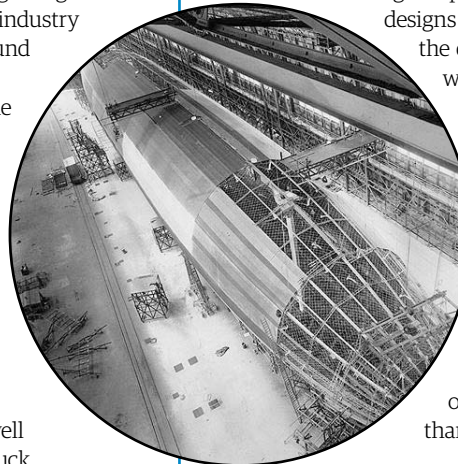
## First helium airship

On 1 December 1921, the US Navy blimp C-7 sailed into the sky. It was the first airship to be filled with helium, not hydrogen. Helium, being an inert gas, was far safer to use in these temperamental machines but did not generate as much lift.



## Advertising advances

With the airship market booming, the Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Company saw an excellent marketing opportunity. Christened Pilgrim, their first advertising blimp was launched in July 1925 with resounding success. The company's president had them named after competitors in the America's Cup yacht race, as he saw that airships could "serve a similar purpose for persons living inland as do yachts for those living along the seacoast." The burgeoning airship industry had created a romantic image around itself and Goodyear's blimps were seen as embodying the spirit of the Roaring Twenties. Publicity stunts and feats of daring were carried out with acrobats and wing walkers exciting and wowing crowds all across the USA. Today, Goodyear still maintains its airship fleet and is in the process of replacing all its blimps with semirigid designs. Although these are not technically blimps, the aircraft have become such a well known sight that the name has stuck.



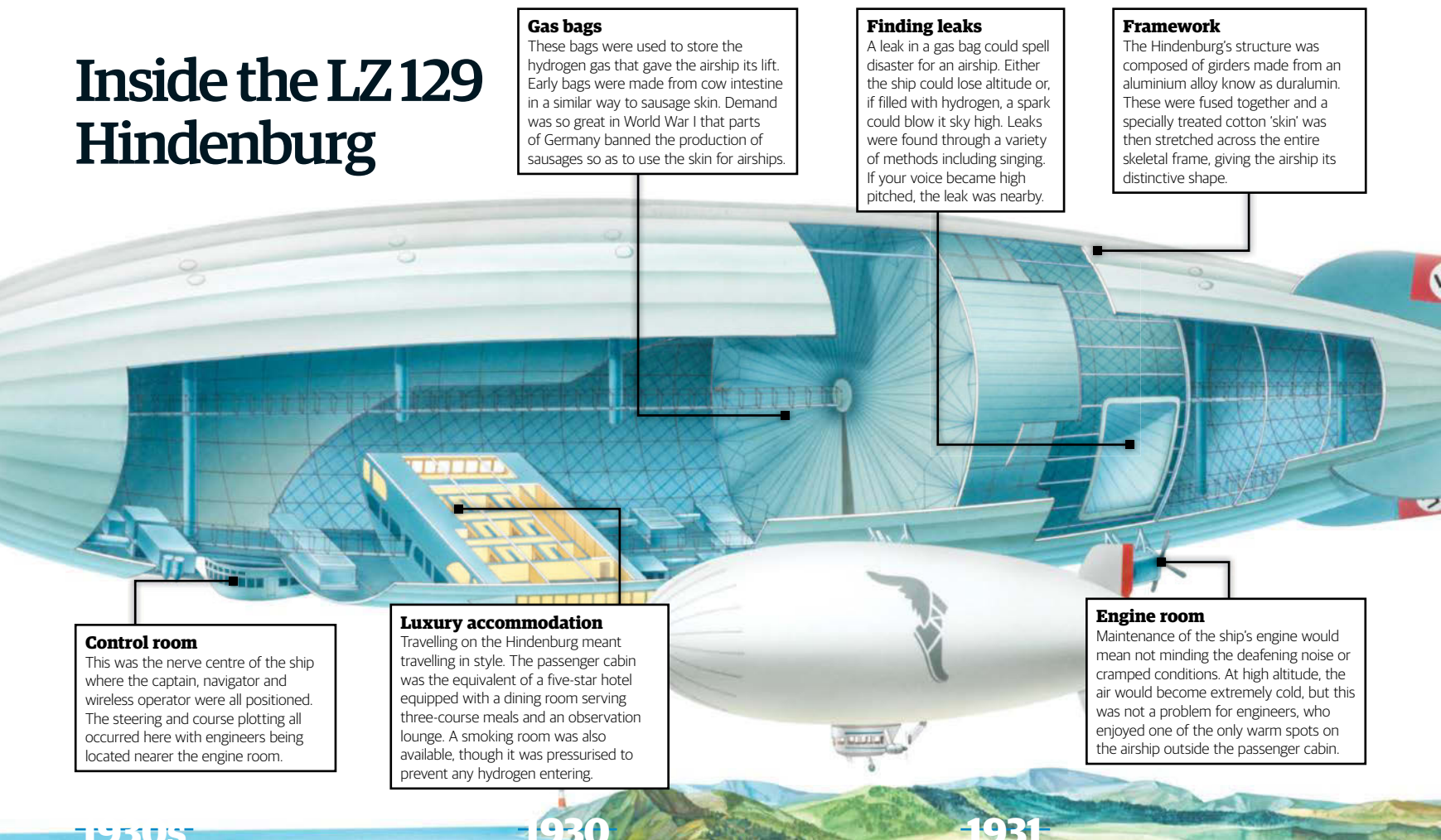
## Tragedy at sea

After World War I, the USA became interested in airship technology for the military. Commissioning a number of ships from both German and British manufacturers, the US Navy began to build its airship fleet. Danger was never far behind, and the first in a series of tragedies struck in 1925 when USS Shenandoah ran into a storm and was torn apart, killing 14 crew.

Although improvements to airship designs were made, one of the deadliest accidents would occur just eight years later. Caught in a lightning storm off the coast of New Jersey, USS Akron was lost, leaving only three survivors. Akron's sister ship, USS Macon, would suffer a similar fate, but mercifully almost all of the 81 crew survived thanks to their life rafts.



## Inside the LZ 129 Hindenburg



### Gas bags

These bags were used to store the hydrogen gas that gave the airship its lift. Early bags were made from cow intestine in a similar way to sausage skin. Demand was so great in World War I that parts of Germany banned the production of sausages so as to use the skin for airships.

### Finding leaks

A leak in a gas bag could spell disaster for an airship. Either the ship could lose altitude or, if filled with hydrogen, a spark could blow it sky high. Leaks were found through a variety of methods including singing. If your voice became high pitched, the leak was nearby.

### Framework

The Hindenburg's structure was composed of girders made from an aluminium alloy known as duralumin. These were fused together and a specially treated cotton 'skin' was then stretched across the entire skeletal frame, giving the airship its distinctive shape.

### Control room

This was the nerve centre of the ship where the captain, navigator and wireless operator were all positioned. The steering and course plotting all occurred here with engineers being located nearer the engine room.

### Luxury accommodation

Travelling on the Hindenburg meant travelling in style. The passenger cabin was the equivalent of a five-star hotel equipped with a dining room serving three-course meals and an observation lounge. A smoking room was also available, though it was pressurised to prevent any hydrogen entering.

### Engine room

Maintenance of the ship's engine would mean not minding the deafening noise or cramped conditions. At high altitude, the air would become extremely cold, but this was not a problem for engineers, who enjoyed one of the only warm spots on the airship outside the passenger cabin.

## Soviet airship programme crashes

Beginning as far back as the Napoleonic Wars, Russia's airship programme was quite successful, if not a little mysterious, with few official records surviving. Soviet engineering would produce some amazing results with the SSSR-V6 OSOAVIAKHIM beating the German record for endurance flying by staying airborne for a staggering 130 hours. After World War II, Russian airships fell into decline, and by the 1950s, they were grounded.



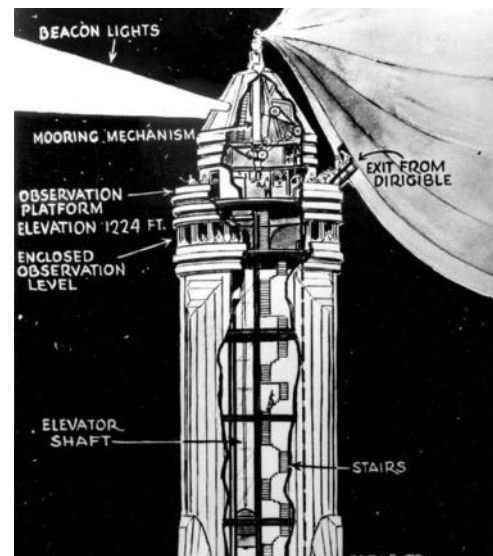
## Imperial Airship Scheme nosedives

At the height of its power, the British Empire spanned a quarter of the globe, and travel between its borders could take months. The solution was the Imperial Airship Scheme. Two ships were commissioned for the initial project: the R100 and R101. The R101 set out to test new designs in manufacturing and at the time was the largest airship ever constructed. The committee that was assigned to aid construction would cripple it, however, imposing implausible restrictions and ignoring safety warnings. As previous airship disasters were fresh in the public's mind, the R101's metal frame was made far stronger than required, leading to the airship having unnecessary weight. It would also become woefully underpowered as the craft was forbidden from having petrol engines for fear they would explode in India's heat. The diesel engines it was fitted with were originally designed for railways and came in much heavier than planned. In their haste to launch, the concerns voiced by engineering personnel were silenced, and on 4 October 1930, the R101 left Cardington heading towards France. Hampered by stormy conditions and faulty engines, the R101 dove nose first into French soil, ending the Imperial Airship Program and grounding the rest of the fleet.

1931

## The world's highest airship dock

Being one of the tallest buildings in New York, it was inevitable that the Empire State Building would be used to tether airships. A seemingly inspired idea turned out to be a bust as a combination of powerful updrafts and lack of ground mooring lines made the building a death trap for the craft.





## Airships, blimps and Zeppelins, oh my!

### Airship

An airship is a steerable, powered aircraft inflated by lighter-than-air gases.

### Dirigible

A synonym of airship, the name comes not from its rigid frame but rather the French word *diriger* or 'to steer'.

### Blimp

A blimp is an airship that has no rigid structure and maintains its shape from the pressure of the inflating gas.

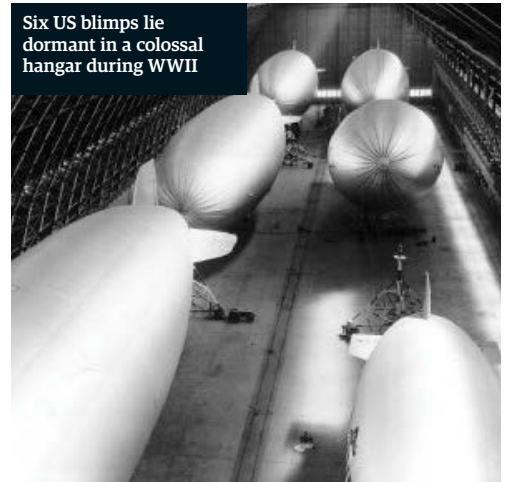
### Rigid airship

These craft maintain their shape not through the pressure of the lifting gas but by a rigid framework that surrounds the gas cells or bags.

### Zeppelin

A Zeppelin is a rigid airship built by the Zeppelin Company founded by Count Zeppelin.

Six US blimps lie dormant in a colossal hangar during WWII



Aeroscraft's prototype was destroyed when the roof of its hangar collapsed

In an ominous twist of fate, the Hindenburg was constructed out of the wreck of the R101



## The Hindenburg Disaster

Aware of the propaganda value of airships to showcase Germany's new strength, the Nazis pumped millions into the industry to produce their most infamous vessel, the Hindenburg. On 3 May 1937, the Hindenburg left Frankfurt on what would become its final flight. Coasting leisurely across Europe and the Atlantic, it arrived over the glittering skyscrapers of New York on 6 May. The landing had been delayed due to poor conditions and it was attempted again in a small window of calm at Lakehurst, New Jersey. Just after 7pm, the ship caught fire and was ripped apart in an explosion that lasted just 30 seconds. Of the 61 people on board, 36 lives, both civilian and crew, were lost. The cause of the disaster stumped experts. The captain maintained that it must have been sabotage while other theories included lightning or the natural phenomenon of St Elmo's fire. Now scientists believe that it was a single spark that caused the catastrophe.

## World War II

The demand for the use of airships in World War II was still high. It would be the Americans, however, not the Germans, that would fully utilise them. Hermann Goering, the head of Germany's air force, was famously distrustful of airships, and owing to aluminium shortages, had the majority of Germany's fleet melted down in 1940. The US Navy, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, realised that it simply did not have the ships or aircraft to defend more than 19,000 kilometres of US coastline, and so turned to airships for help. The US would utilise airships fully in the conflict and tasked them with small but important roles, such as minesweeping, photo reconnaissance, search and rescue, and anti-submarine patrols. Their top-down view enabled them to spot tell-tale signs of enemy submarines better than a ship on the surface and could radio co-ordinates for battleships to intercept. Over four years of war, only one ship was lost to enemy fire when a K-74 was brought down by a German U-boat. The ship gave as good as it got and damaged the U-boat so much that it could no longer submerge and was soon sunk by bombers.

The destruction of the Hindenburg was the death knell for commercial airship production both in German and internationally. With plane technology allowing for much faster travel times and cargo capacity, the demand for airships both before and after World War II plummeted. While still used in a very limited capacity in advertising and military applications, these craft have all but flown from the public mind.

However, renewed interest could see an airship renaissance. In 1997, the Zeppelin Company re-emerged, producing its first new model in 50 years with the Zeppelin NT 07 making its maiden flight. Another company, Aeroscraft, was recently given a large grant by the US government to produce the next generation of airships. Apart from tourist and advertising applications, airships are ideal for research and environmental missions due to their low vibrations and ability to haul cargo to inaccessible locations that might not be served by a road, port or runway.





# Empress Dowager Cixi

From concubine to conqueror, was China's last empress a shrewd moderniser or a pivotal player in imperial collapse?

Written by Rachel England

From the rumour mills of Medieval courts to modern-day gossip magazines, humanity has throughout its history been fixated with rumour and hearsay, and many historians would argue there are few leaders in Chinese history who have fallen prey to such intense speculation as Empress Dowager Cixi.

Born in the winter of 1835 when the Chinese empire was still strong, Cixi was the daughter of an ordinary official from the Manchu Yehenara clan. She was well educated and able to read and write - an unusual skill for Manchu women of the time - and in 1851, she participated in the selection of consorts for the Xianfeng Emperor alongside 60 other candidates. Contrary to modern-day interpretations of the Chinese concubine tradition, being chosen as a royal consort was a huge honour, and Cixi, one of the few candidates chosen, was placed in the sixth rank of the emperor's nocturnal companions, rising to fifth rank in just a few years.

Thanks to her ability to read and write Chinese, Cixi had many opportunities to help the emperor with daily government business. As the emperor aged, he'd ask Cixi to read palace memorials and write down his wishes. This meant Cixi quickly became well informed about state affairs and benefited from a valuable lesson in the art of governance under the ailing emperor's tutelage. This already put her in an advantageous position, but her starring role in Chinese history was cemented when she gave birth to Zaichun, the Xianfeng Emperor's only surviving son, in 1856. By Zaichun's first birthday, Cixi was elevated to the third rank of consorts, putting her second only to the Empress Cixian within the Xianfeng Emperor's household.

In September 1860, tension erupted between Britain, France and China, and troops attacked Beijing, destroying the Imperial Summer Palace. It's said that on hearing this news, the Xianfeng Emperor - who had fled the city with his royal household -







## *Hero or Villain?* EMPRESS DOWAGER CIXI

### *Defining moment*

#### **Taking the reins**

We can never know what Cixi's intentions truly were when the Xianfeng Emperor died, but the pressure of bearing his only heir was undoubtedly tremendous. From a modest background, the shrewd and intelligent Cixi was no doubt aware of the political tumult she was about to be launched in to and knew that it was necessary to take control of the situation before it could take control of her.

**1861**



## Hero or Villain?

### EMPRESS DOWAGER CIXI

The Boxer Rebellion was arguably the beginning of the end for Imperial China



#### Defining moment

##### Learning from the West

China's agricultural-based economy could never compete with the industrial prowess of the West, and so Cixi decided China would learn from foreign powers and adopt their technology. Alas, after China purchased seven British warships, they were sent to China under British command. The Chinese were outraged at this 'international joke' and many of Cixi's plans to learn from foreigners were abandoned.

1862-81



Prince Gong was a pivotal player in Cixi's rise to rule



The issue of succession sparked widespread global interest, as demonstrated by this German caricature



fell into a deep depression and, turning to alcohol and drugs, never recovered. He died in 1861 having named eight regents for his five-year-old son, the new emperor, and expressing his hope that Cǎn and Cixi would continue to play a pivotal role in the boy's royal career. While historians largely agree that Xianfeng never intended Cixi to wield direct political power, his passing marked the beginning of the end for Chinese Imperialism, and Cixi, as the new emperor's politically shrewd mother, was at the helm.

However, as the emperor's mother, Cixi's position had no power attached to it, so it was necessary for her to ally herself with other strong figures. Cixi had formed a close friendship with the late emperor's wife Cǎn, and suggested to her that the pair become co-reigning empresses with powers surpassing the eight regents. The two women enjoyed a harmonious partnership; Cǎn had little interest in politics and preferred to take care of household matters, leaving Cixi free to rule as she saw fit. But the eight regents did not take kindly to Cixi's interference in politics, and constant confrontation with the empress dowagers meant Cǎn frequently refused to attend court audiences, leaving Cixi to fend for herself - no small feat as, because she was a woman, she was forced to govern from behind a screen, battling to make herself heard amid a sea of male voices.

## "Cixi turned her attention to cleaning up national bureaucracies, and even had two prominent officials executed"

Ever the shrewd political player, Cixi began to assemble support from talented ministers and soldiers who had great ambitions but had been ostracised by the regents for political or personal reasons. Two individuals, Prince Gong and Prince Chun, the late emperor's sixth and seventh brothers, would go on to play a pivotal role in Cixi's story.

With Prince Gong's help, Cixi brought about a number of charges against the regents, deeming them 'incompetent' for the way they handled the invasion of Beijing that ultimately led to the Xianfeng Emperor's death. Three of the regents were executed, and in a move that further demonstrated her apparent grace and benevolence, Cixi refused to have the regents' family members killed, as would have been tradition. In a single stroke - known as the Xinyou Coup - Cixi had removed her challengers and emerged as a merciful yet powerful ruler.

In the following years, Cixi turned her attention to cleaning up national bureaucracies, which had

become infested with corruption, and even had two prominent officials executed to serve as an example to others. Worryingly for Cixi, a number of reports accused her trusted confidant Prince Gong of corruption and so, fearing his growing influence, the prince was dismissed from his offices and appointments, but allowed to keep his status as nobility. The move once again highlighted Cixi's refusal to give up absolute power to anyone, even one of her most important friends - and, as it would soon emerge, even her son, the rightful emperor of China.

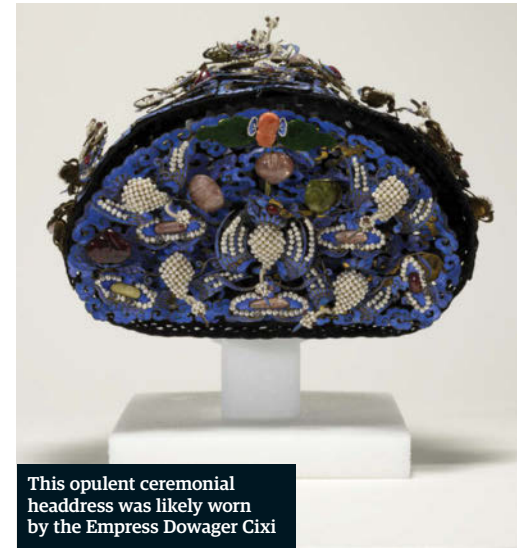
In 1872, the Tongzhi Emperor turned 17, and under the guidance of Cǎn, married the Jiaoshun Empress. Both her ancestry and zodiac symbol of tiger were cause for concern for the superstitious Cixi. Unhappy with the union, Cixi ordered the couple to separate. The Tongzhi Emperor, who proved to be an incompetent ruler anyway, fell into a deep despair and turned to a life of debauchery and hedonism outside the Forbidden City. His escapades led him



# Hero or Villain? EMPRESS DOWAGER CIXI



Empress Dowager Cixi's final resting place is one of the most impressive imperial tombs of China



This opulent ceremonial headdress was likely worn by the Empress Dowager Cixi



The Xianfeng Emperor never recovered from the destruction of the Old Summer Palace in 1860

to smallpox and ultimately death. By 1875, Cixi was back at the helm of total power.

The Tongzhi Emperor died without a male heir, leaving China in an unprecedented succession crisis: members of the generation above were ruled out as they could not succeed their nephew. After disagreement between Cixi and Ci'an, the four-year-old son of Prince Chun and Cixi's sister, Zaitain, was chosen to be the new Guangxu Emperor.

Soon after, Ci'an died and Cixi fell seriously ill. For some years the empress dowager had only written contact with her ministers, but she continued to wield ultimate power. When the Guangxu Emperor gained the right to rule in 1887, court officials encouraged Cixi to maintain her position until a later date. Court officials would put more effort into impressing Cixi than the emperor, and the young man was often overlooked entirely when it came to official government business. This decision, which

Cixi had no issue accepting, arguably marks the start of Imperial China's unravelling, as behind the scenes, the Guangxu Emperor paid increasing attention to liberal ideas of reformation, and when he acceded to the throne, he implemented a series of political, legal and social changes.

These changes proved too sudden for China, and displeased the conservatively minded Cixi, who brought allegations of treason against the emperor, and subsequently resumed the role of regent.

By this time, China was increasingly facing pressure from foreign influences. Cixi, frustrated with foreign interference, allied with an anti-Christian, anti-foreign cult known as The Boxers. This was

to be her most disastrous failure. The Boxers launched widespread attacks on missionaries and diplomats, ultimately resulting in another foreign occupancy of Beijing. Court officials encouraged her to continue the fight against allied forces, but she

knew she'd been bested. Cixi was able to negotiate a treaty that meant China would not have to give up any further territories, and - crucially - she would be permitted to continue her reign when the war was concluded. She uncharacteristically accepted responsibility for the Boxer Rebellion, issuing a decree of 'self-reproach', and upon her return to Beijing, set about implementing sweeping political reforms that drew upon foreign policies in a bid to rectify internal issues within China. She even sponsored the implementation of a reform programme more radical than the one suggested by the reformers she'd previously had beheaded.

This was a marked step-change for the conservative Cixi, who had historically distrusted foreigners, and historians debate whether she truly envisioned a bold new China, or if, after a lifetime of fighting for power, she'd simply grown tired of resistance. She died on 15 November 1908, and on her death bed said she'd "never had a moment in life without anxiety."

Was Empress Dowager Cixi a hero or a villain? Let us know what you think

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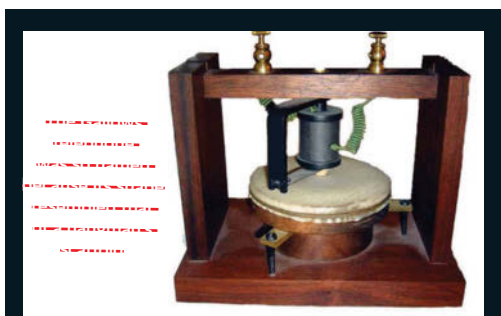
**Defining moment**  
**The Boxer Rebellion**  
Cixi allied China with the Boxers largely out of frustration at foreign interference - she was reluctant to change China's traditional ways but wanted her country to maintain its global dominance. But she was mindful of the predicament, saying: "Today China is extremely weak. We have only the people's hearts and minds to depend upon. If we cast them aside and lose the people's hearts, what can we use to sustain the country?"

1899



# Through History TELEPHONES

Today's phones aren't just clever gadgets. Every call we make connects us to telephony's rich history of creativity, controversy and life-changing innovation

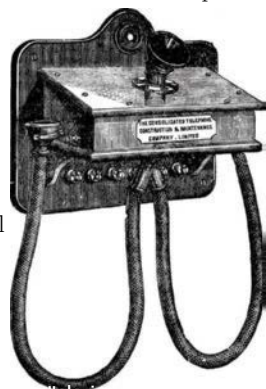


## GALLOW'S FRAME TRANSMITTER 1875

Alexander Graham Bell's earliest telephone transmitters combined an electromagnet, reed relays and a taut diaphragm that caused an iron strip to vibrate and generate an electric current when agitated by sound waves. He incorporated this design into the Gallows Frame Transmitter. However, it didn't unequivocally transmit speech. Nonetheless, Bell was convinced his ideas should work and incorporated them into later inventions and a patent application. He filed that patent in 1876 and it would secure his place in history.

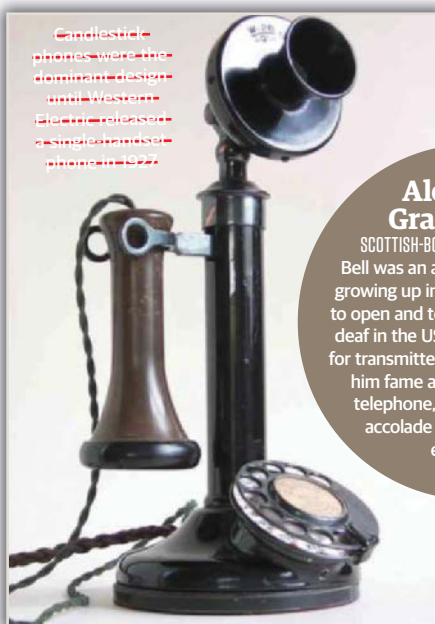
## GOWER-BELL TELEPHONE 1878

Although Bell secured the most widely remembered telephone patent, other entrepreneurs were developing their own devices. Among them was Frederic Allen Gower. Together with Cornelius Roosevelt, Gower filed patents for mechanisms that would lead to the Gower-Bell telephone. These instruments were wall-mounted with a microphone at the top and two flexible speaking tubes hanging from the base. Calls were made by the user sending in a puff of air that agitated a melodeon reed (essentially a spring steel tongue). This caused the reed to vibrate, thereby generating an electrical signal over a telephone wire that alerted an operator.



## CENTENNIAL TRANSMITTER 1876

The 1876 International Exhibition of Arts, Manufactures and Products of the Soil and Mine in Philadelphia marked the centenary of the USA's Declaration of Independence. This so-called Centennial Exhibition included Bell's first demonstration of a follow-up to his Gallows telephone. Accounts of the event say that when a voice came from the Centennial Transmitter, there were cries of excitement from, among others, Dom Pedro II, the emperor of Brazil. Like its predecessor, this transmitter used the mechanism of sound waves striking a taut parchment diaphragm. However, it could only be used for brief exchanges as moisture from exhaling collected on the parchment.



### Alexander Graham Bell

SCOTTISH-BORN AMERICAN 1847-1922

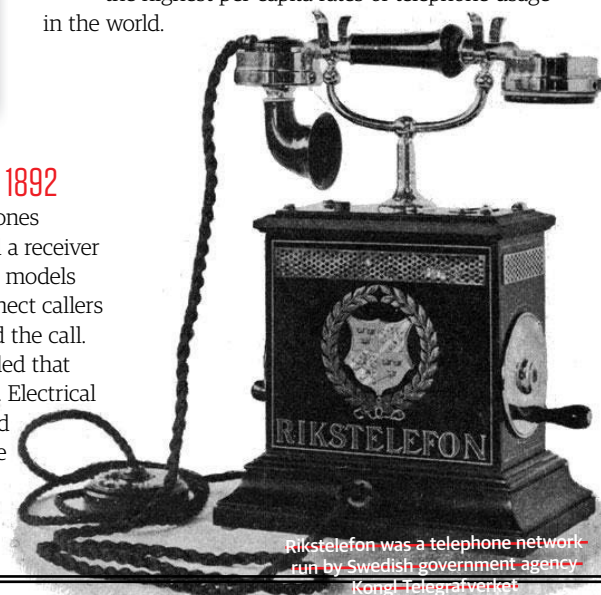
Bell was an average student when growing up in Scotland but went on to open and teach at a school for the deaf in the USA in 1872. His patents for transmitters and receivers earned him fame as the inventor of the telephone, but his right to that accolade has been disputed ever since.

## ERICSSON HAND CRANKED TELEPHONE 1896

The turn of the 20th century brought the advent of common battery systems that supplied power to telephones along phone lines connected to batteries at the exchange. Before that, telephones were powered by local batteries. Some were also equipped with a hand-cranked magneto that, when wound by the caller, sent a signal to the local operator and to a bell on the phone at the other end of the line. In the late-19th century, Ericsson was a major supplier of telephones due to Sweden having one of the highest per capita rates of telephone usage in the world.

## CANDLESTICK TELEPHONES 1892

Named for their upright design, candlestick phones included a mouthpiece at the top of a stem and a receiver that hung from an attached holder. The earliest models were released in the 1880s and could only connect callers to a switchboard operator who manually routed the call. Early in the 20th century, rotary dials were added that took advantage of the new pulse-based system. Electrical pulses generated by turning the dial interrupted a direct current loop between the caller and the telephone exchange. The frequency of pulses identified the numbers dialled to the latter, which then routed the call automatically.



Rikstelefon was a telephone network run by Swedish government agency Kongl. Telegrafverket



## WESTERN ELECTRIC 500 ROTARY DIAL PHONE 1949

Western Electric's 500 series is one of the most successful and enduring creations of the rotary phone era. Conceived by the firm of American industrial designer Henry Dreyfuss for Bell Telephone Laboratories, it featured the iconic thermoplastic wedge-shaped base unit, housing the dial, ringer and handset cradle, which would become a familiar site in homes and businesses over the next four decades. Essentially the same design was used for telephones in Britain, including the popular Ericsson 706, which was introduced by the General Post Office in 1959.



### Antonio Meucci

ITALIAN-AMERICAN 1808-89

Although less famous than Alexander Graham Bell, Antonio Meucci was declared the true inventor of the telephone by the US Congress in 2002. An Italian immigrant, Meucci designed his 'electrophone' around 1870 in New York but couldn't afford a full patent. Consequently, his ideas were overshadowed and he died penniless.

## WESTERN ELECTRIC TRIMLINE 2220 TOUCH-TONE PHONE 1968

The first touch-tone phone was introduced by Bell System in November 1963. A keypad on the base unit replaced the rotary dial, which made dialling faster and more convenient. Button presses produced distinct tones and were decoded based on different combinations of the frequencies assigned to the keypad's rows and columns. Western Electric introduced the Trimline range two years later. Early models retained a rotary dial in the handset but touch-tone editions came out the following year. The Trimline 2220 series was released in 1968, adding pound and star keys to the original keypad.



placed outside the house partly to prevent them wearing off with use

"Nicknamed 'The Brick', the 8000X was about 33 centimetres long and weighed 790 grams"

## MOTOROLA DYNATAC MOBILE PHONE 1973

Although Motorola originally demonstrated its DynaTAC (Dynamic Adaptive Total Area Coverage) mobile phone in 1973, the first retail model wasn't approved for another decade. Even then it barely qualified as mobile.

Nicknamed 'The Brick', the 8000X was about 33 centimetres long, 8.9 centimetres thick and weighed 790 grams. Moreover, a fully charged battery only lasted about 30 minutes. Costing several times what premium mobile phones do now, it was an expensive and impractical symbol of affluence. Newer models followed, however, proving that our willingness to always be available is nothing new.

The Nokia 3210 was an early so-called 'candybar' phone because it was small, rectangular shape



## NOKIA 3210 1999

Before Apple and Samsung became the biggest names in mobile phones, Nokia was among the top brands thanks to the success of pre-smartphone devices like the Nokia 3210. Although it wasn't the Finnish company's first mobile phone, it certainly helped to make the devices essential to young consumers. The internal antenna made the 3210 more shapely than most previous models of mobile phones, and at only 12.4 centimetres long and 5.1 centimetres thick, it could fit easily into a pocket for maximum portability.

Moreover, the three pre-installed games (including the now-iconic mobile phone game *Snake*) and interchangeable covers were enough of a novelty to ensure that more than 160 million units were sold worldwide.

### Steve Jobs

AMERICAN 1955-2011

Steve Jobs didn't invent either touchscreens or smartphones but he was largely responsible for making them integral to our everyday lives. As CEO of Apple, he introduced the iPod, iPhone and iPad, which have blurred the lines between mobile computing and telecommunications with the spread of apps and wireless networks.



## APPLE IPHONE 2007

Touch displays had been mooted more than two decades before IBM unveiled Simon, the first touchscreen phone, in 1993. 14 years later, Apple revolutionised mobile communications by releasing the iPhone, which combined smartphone capabilities with an easily portable form factor. Initially, the First Generation iPhone didn't support third-party apps due to limitations in the operating system. That changed, however, when the App Store opened in 2008. The app market subsequently exploded, leading to competition from other platforms, particularly Google's Android. Since then, Apple has continually updated the iPhone, leading to the release of the iPhone 6s in 2015.







# CELTS

## Cult of Death

From human sacrifice to headhunting, the Celts had a ferocious reputation in the ancient world and a vivid vision of the afterlife


Written by Jack Griffiths

**B**efore the coming of the Romans, the Hallstatt and La Tène cultures flourished in a continental Celtic civilisation that had its heartland in central Europe but branched out as far east as Asia Minor and as far west as Ireland. Although it was a fragmented society made up of clans with no centralised government, one thing the Celts were unified on was the cult of death. Across Europe, this major part of Celtic culture centred on a reverence for human heads and elaborate burial sites. In Britain, Ireland and Gaul (France) especially, a class of people known as druids became the link between the natural and the supernatural. The Celts believed that for a clan to survive and truly prosper, the dead must be properly respected.

The Celtic warrior tradition was very similar to the hero culture that existed in Ancient Greece and Rome, with elite fighters admired as champions and inspirations. It was believed that

the spirits of these great heroes lived on after death, with the cult of death based on the idea of a supernatural realm known as the Otherworld. The belief was that once a Celt's mortal body had died, the soul would live on. Elaborate burial sites have been found across Europe with food, weapons and supplies buried along with the dead. These decorated burial grounds are some of the best records of Celtic culture.

The cult of death claimed that the Otherworld was rooted in the physical world, sometimes being described as underground or a far away island. Once in the Otherworld, Celts believed that life after death was happy; a paradise filled with feasting and happiness. This is one of the reasons for their renowned ferocity on the battlefield – they weren't afraid of death, and meeting their end by the blade of an enemy sword was something to aspire to. Bravery and recklessness in war was glorified and would be boasted about at every opportunity. To the Romans, the cult of death was wild barbarism at its worst, but to the Celts, it was a way of life.









# DEATH ON THE BATTLEFIELD

With no fear of dying, the Celts were fierce warriors with an unusual habit

**B**usually fighting without armour, clad in blue woad war paint and tattoos, and occasionally completely naked, a Celt was a force of nature on the ancient battlefield. Wielding swords, daggers or javelins with a shield, Celtic iron crushed the helmets of the Roman legionaries as war cries rang out and musical instruments were blown. After victory, the Celts set about collecting the heads of both fallen comrades and foes as the headhunting began.

For the Celts, falling on the field of battle wasn't the end. Celtic society had a peculiar obsession with human heads, and after an enemy was

defeated, severed heads would be hung by their hair over a horse's neck and taken to be nailed to the entrance of a fort or sanctuary. The suggested notion behind this bizarre tradition was that once the head of a vanquished foe was taken, the Celts believed that the victor would receive the spiritual power of the fallen. The heads were later embalmed and displayed as a sign of victory in battle. According to the Celts, the human soul had an afterlife, and as it lived in the head, this had to be kept at all costs. The body, meanwhile, would be hung from wooden frames and put on show while enemy weapons were broken up and buried as songs of victory filled the air.

The Romans had feared the warlike Celts ever since the Sack of Rome in 390 BCE, but this fear soon changed to a burning desire to see them defeated. When Celts were hired as auxiliary soldiers in the Roman army, knowledge of their passion for beheading became widespread. Unlike the Romans, who were an efficient and organised fighting force, the Celts were more flamboyant. Stories tell of one Celtic ruler who drove a chariot made entirely out of silver into battle. The obsession with headhunting didn't end with the Celts, and continued in small pockets of Ireland up until the Middle Ages even as Christianity spread over the Emerald Isle.



## CELTIC WEAPONS

The Bronze and Iron Ages witnessed a huge influx of new weaponry for use in both battle and burials

### 1 Battersea Shield

Constructed from bronze sheets and 27 red glass studs, the Battersea Shield was made in Britain between 350-50 BCE. Although it is believed to be from the La Tène period, it is difficult to date exactly as its decorative style is not related to any other Celtic object.

### 2 Waterloo Helmet

This helmet dates from around 250-50 BCE and its bronze material means it was far too fragile to have been used in warfare. Instead it is believed that it was used as a ceremonial headdress. It is the only Iron Age helm of its type to have ever been found in Europe.

### 3 Montefortino helmet

The classic choices of the Roman legionaries, both the Montefortino and Coolus helmets were originally Celtic designs. The conical-shaped headgear was the helmet of choice for the Gauls and first appeared in about 400 BCE. Once the Romans and the Carthaginians got their hands on them, they were mass produced.

### 4 Wandsworth Shield boss

The Celts were big users of shields in battle, usually instead of armour. The shields tended to be oval in shape and could be both wooden and metallic. The boss at the centre of the design was a metal cup used to protect the hand when holding the shield.

### 5 Celtic Iron Sword

Celtic warriors were expert swordsmen and the quality design of their weapons matched their proficiency with a blade. The large iron swords could be up to 90 centimetres in length and were wielded with two hands. Smaller swords also existed that could be used to slice and dice while also carrying a shield.

### 6 Spears and javelins

The sharp leaf-shaped iron heads were attached to an ash wood pole and thrown at enemy infantry. The first contact with Roman armies persuaded the Celts to narrow the spearheads to be able to puncture legionary armour. They would be collected at the end of the battle along with the heads.





Boudica was queen of the Iceni tribe and led an uprising against the occupying forces of the Roman Empire

## Women warriors

Both on the front line and in peacetime society, women played a huge role as warriors and queens

The Celts were leagues ahead of their counterpart ancient civilisations in gender equality, allowing females to be both warriors and queens, as the likes of Boudica and Cartimandua demonstrate. Although men held the ultimate power, the political freedom and lawful protection given to women was unparalleled compared with Greek and Roman lands. Classical Roman authors were notoriously fearful of the Celtic women as they fought as hard in battle as men. Girls were trained in the arts of war as much as boys, and would learn how to carry weaponry, fight off invaders and even lead their own fighting schools. The Iceni from south-eastern England were one of the most prominent tribes to use women in battle as they drove the Romans out of Londinium.

Women were also important in spiritual ways. They could become druids and were not excluded from any occupation. Celtic mythology told of a Land of Women. This island formed part of the conception of the afterlife, and according to the Roman writers Posidonius and Strabo, was a place where men could not go for fear of death as women literally ripped each other apart.

The Battle of Alesia, which took place in 52 BCE, was a major clash between Caesar's army and Gallic tribes





# SACRIFICE

Mythology and the role of gods meant so much to the Celts that sacrificial ceremonies were commonplace

**T**he spiritual gesture of headhunting was only one part of the cult of death. Once the skulls had been removed from the battlefield, it was over to the druids to perform elaborate rituals, including sacrificial offerings. The Celts believed sacrifice encouraged the supernatural world to link with the natural, and this is what kept them performing these rituals.

While there is some debate about whether human sacrifice actually took place, it is referenced by the Roman writers of the era and druidic practice was banned under Emperor Claudius after the successful invasion of Britain. It was written that in one form of human sacrifice, the victim's head would be severed from the body and then the skull completely shattered. This was done to prevent the ghost from wandering free after death.

However, the Celts worshipped a number of gods, and each demanded a different form of sacrificial offering. For instance, those sacrificed to the god

of the willow, Esus, would be hanged, those killed in the name of Taranis, the thunder god, would be immolated while those murdered for Toutatis, the god of the people, were drowned. But perhaps the most infamous form of sacrifice in the cult of death was the Wicker Man. Featured in one of Julius Caesar's most well known writings on the Celts' death culture in a tale that has been exaggerated over time, the large wicker structure was burned as an effigy with living people inside. It was supposedly an offering to the gods, but this theory has been disputed.

This aspect of the cult of death also offered a way of punishing criminals. Executions of this kind were carried out during a festival and would again vary depending on which god they were dedicated to. One popular punishment was to cut a criminal's stomach open before hanging them from an oak branch in a temple roof.

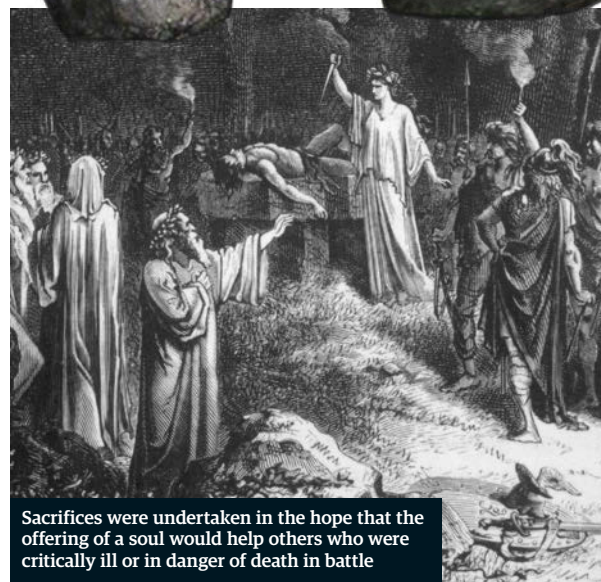
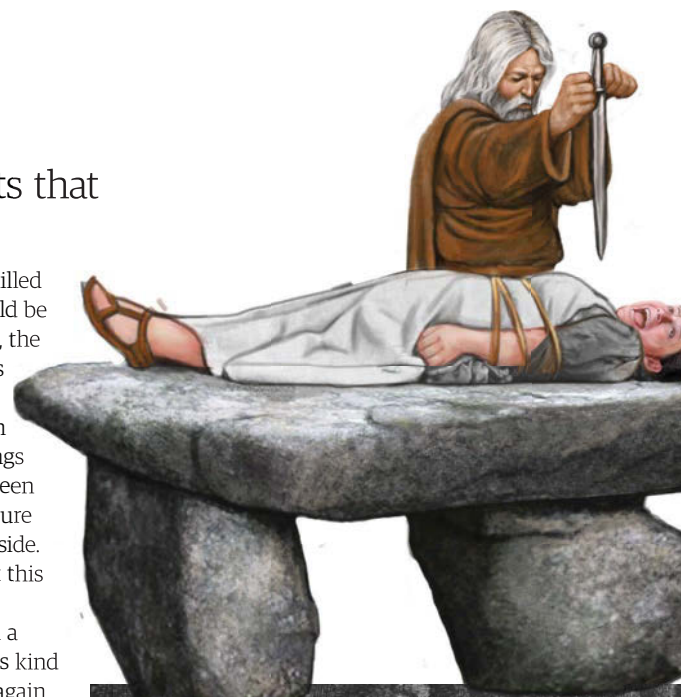
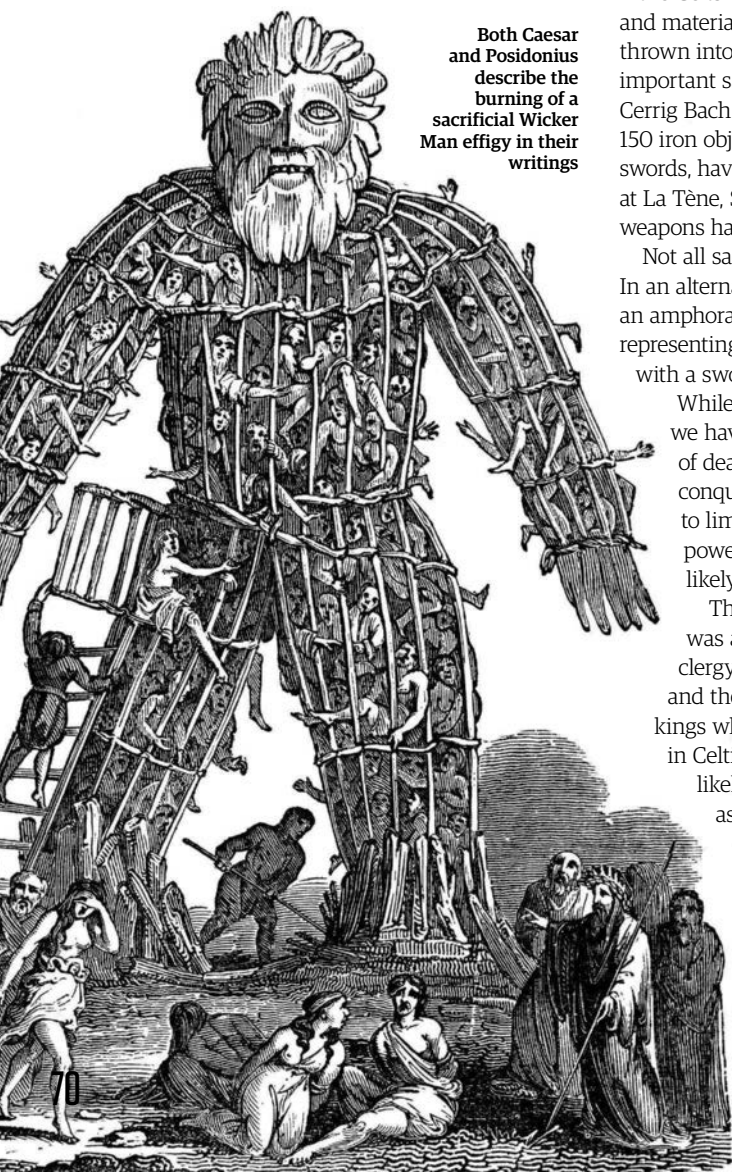
It wasn't just humans that could be sacrificed in the cult of death. Animals were readily slaughtered if the Celts thought it would appease the gods, and material goods were also destroyed by being thrown into lakes and rivers. One of the most important sacrificial pits ever found is at Llyn Cerrig Bach in Anglesey, Wales, where more than 150 iron objects, including spears, shields and swords, have been unearthed. There is also a site at La Tène, Switzerland, where huge amounts of weapons have been dredged from Lake Neuchatel.

Not all sacrifices required bloodshed and loss. In an alternative to human and animal sacrifice, an amphora was filled to the brim with wine - representing blood - and then the top was cut off with a sword to emulate a decapitation.

While Roman writings are the best sources we have on druidism and sacrifice in the cult of death, it is well known that in order to conquer the Celts, the Romans attempted to limit the influence of the exceptionally powerful druids. Therefore, their portrayal is likely as scathing as possible.

The druids' elevated status in society was a precursor to what the Christian clergy would become in the Middle Ages, and they had the rare ability to speak before kings while in council. As the religious class in Celtic society, the druids would have most likely been the ones to carry out sacrifices, as well as other ceremonies. One of the craziest rituals recorded by the Romans was known as 'Bull Sleep', which involved a person being fed bull flesh and then sleeping wrapped in its hide. When they awoke, they would know who would be the next king.

Both Caesar and Posidonius describe the burning of a sacrificial Wicker Man effigy in their writings



Sacrifices were undertaken in the hope that the offering of a soul would help others who were critically ill or in danger of death in battle







Roman accounts are the primary sources that give weight to the theory that the Celts practiced human sacrifice

## Did druids practise human sacrifice?

Dr Andrew Jennings, UHI Centre for Nordic Studies



There is no reason to doubt Caesar's claim that the druids carried out human sacrifice. Life was offered to the gods in return for life. So someone afflicted with a serious disease or a warrior fighting

a battle would offer a human sacrifice in return for their life, and the druids would carry it out. An animal was no substitute and criminals were pleasing to the gods, but if they were in short supply, the innocent would do. However, we don't know what the Celtic gods wanted the spirits of the sacrificed for.

Caesar also tells us about that most gruesome of sacrifice the Wicker Man, where an immense statue of twigs was filled with victims and set alight. He also remarks that druidism originated in Britain, so it's no surprise to hear from Tacitus that blood-soaked altars existed among the British Celts. Further afield, the Galatians, a Celtic people who settled in Turkey, reportedly sacrificed their prisoners after a battle in 165 BCE. The Celts were not odd for carrying out human sacrifice. Tollund Man, a Danish bog body, is mummified proof that the contemporary Germanic peoples did it too.



A section of the Gundestrup cauldron, this panel shows the sacrifice and subsequent rebirth of a warrior



A bog body found in Germany. It has been named Windeby I and is believed to be a 16-year-old boy from between 41 BCE and 118



# FUNERALS AND THE AFTERLIFE

Celtic burials were ceremonial affairs that prepared the deceased for the next life

## Size and structure

The burial grounds would be approximately 50 metres in diameter and six metres deep, but this depended on the importance of the individual. The structure consisted of wooden walls and a layer of stones that would be covered by sod.

## The corpse

The body would be made up to look its best for the Otherworld. The dead from noble backgrounds would be dressed in the smartest clothes they owned while the poor would be covered and wrapped up in cloth.

## Location of the body

The corpse would always be laid horizontally. Depending on social status, this would be on the base of the carriage within the burial ground or on a sort of raised bronze platform.

## Drinking culture

As well as food and equipment, beverages and drinking vessels were buried as tradition. In one tomb alone, 1,100 litres of wine were taken underground. Gravediggers sometimes targeted Celtic burial grounds and huge amounts of drink could be a valuable find.

## The carriage

Often one of the main components of a Celtic tomb, the carriage would be present at burials of kings and queens and other members of the richer elite. It contained jewellery, weapons, tools and other instruments needed for the Otherworld.



## What happened to the Celts?

Celtic culture disintegrated during and after the end of the Roman Empire. Germanic tribes ransacked the dwindling empire and the Celts were forced to retreat to small pockets of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brittany in France. The Roman Catholic Church had a huge say in the dissolution and memory of Celtic culture. Druidism is believed to have left the history books by approximately 700 before continuing briefly underground. When Catholicism took over the British Isles, pagan sites were turned into cathedrals and the pagan gods were either forgotten or became associated with saints. Breton, Manx, Welsh and Erse Gaelic languages still survive in areas of the British Isles and Europe in some way, ensuring that the traditional customs and culture of the Celts lives on.



### Decoration

The tombs would often have decorated walls. These included drawings of gods and scenes of past battles and events relevant to the dead person's life. In the biggest tombs, wagons for transport and bronze kettles for cooking were included as well.

### Supplies

A dead Celt would be buried with a completely new life ahead of them in mind. The tomb would be packed full of food and there's evidence of firewood being included to light a fire in the next life.

### Human figurines

The Celts didn't go as far as forcing living people and animals into the tomb. Instead, small figurines were made. These small dolls would be arranged as if acting out various tasks such as hunting and cooking that would be useful in the afterlife.

**C**eltic funerals were held in areas that were considered sacred, like woodland groves and natural springs. The Iron Age is when we begin to find evidence for the burial of ordinary people. Prior to this, burial was reserved for the elite, who were placed in elaborate tombs rather than the hole-in-the-ground graves that became the norm during the Celtic period.

Many Celts, both on the continent and in Britain, embraced the new Roman culture thrust upon them, initiating what was known as the Gallo-Roman period. This had effects on funeral ceremonies, which were now undertaken in temples known as 'fanums' built on sacred ground. These culture differences, plus the fact that the Celts were not a centralised society, means Celtic religious views are less well known than other ancient civilisations. Like the Nordic Valhalla and the Ancient Greek underworld, the Celts had their own theories on life after death. The Otherworld was believed to look like a group of islands in the sea and was also called the 'Delightful Plain' or 'Land of the Young'. Here there was no sickness, old age or death, and happiness lasted forever. The journey to the Otherworld was mentioned in Irish tales and tells of a beautiful girl sailing a hero away on a boat of glass. Waterfalls were believed to have been the main access points to the Otherworld and, as a result, gifts were left by them or thrown into them as offerings to the gods. The spiritual power of waterfalls was believed to be so great that streams had the power to heal injury. Tales told of the transmigration of these immortal souls include those of 'Tintan', who lived as a man, a stag and an eagle and the two great Bulls of Erin, who became sacred after a rebirth from human form. These epic stories motivated the Celts to continue ritualistic practices and give their all in battle.

From the highest rungs of society to the lowest, Celts expected to keep their status when they went to the Otherworld. By having their proudest and most important belongings buried with them, their transportation would be made as smooth as possible. Some of the most important items to be buried with the Celts were their weapons. In Celtic burial sites across Europe, helmets, shields, daggers and axes have been found, all of which are intricately designed. The equipment itself wasn't made of material as sturdy as would be found on the Iron Age battlefield and is believed to have been for more of a ceremonial use and for the dead to take with them on their journey to the afterlife.

There is one part of the Celtic cult of death that survives in a form today, and that is Samhain. One of the influences for the contemporary celebration of Halloween, the festival occurred on 31 October, or harvest's end. The tradition was to extinguish the fire in the home and light a communal fire in the village. Here, druids told that the boundaries to the Otherworld were temporarily closed and the spirits could mix with the living. Masks and costumes were worn, influencing the costumes we see during Halloween celebrations today.



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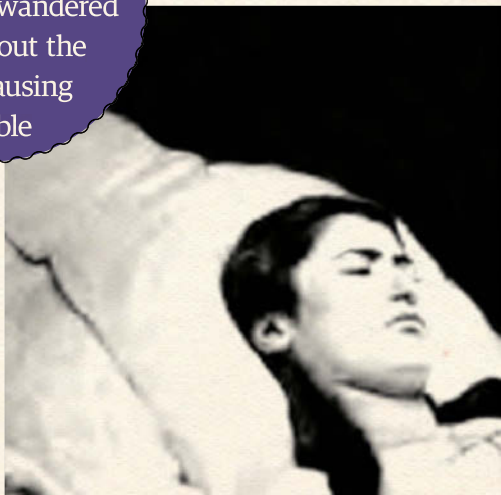
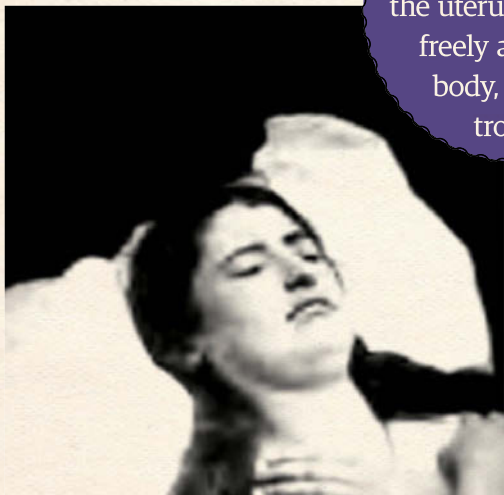


# *Good vibrations*

Written by Jodie Tyley

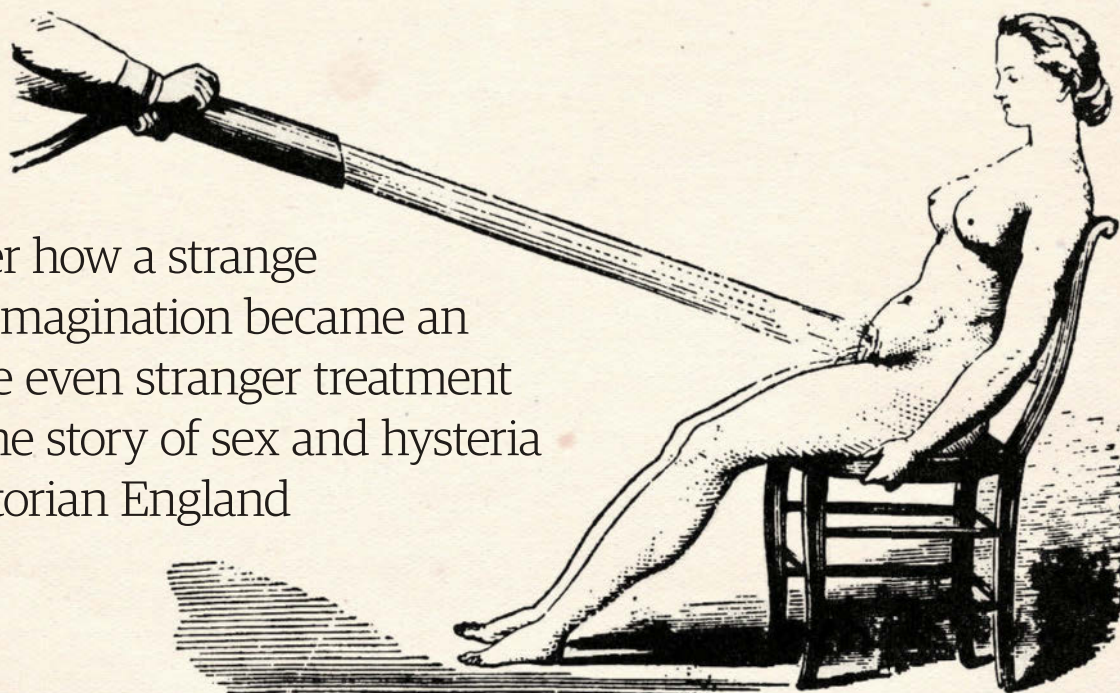


The  
Ancient  
Greeks believed  
the uterus wandered  
freely about the  
body, causing  
trouble





Discover how a strange malady of the imagination became an epidemic, and the even stranger treatment to cure it. This is the story of sex and hysteria in Victorian England



**I**t's the late 19th century and Mrs Fanny Lovegood is leaving the doctor's with a spring in her step. Her symptoms had at first seemed drastic; depression, anxiety, shortness of breath and sudden bursts of uncontrollable emotion. These were all classic signs of the Victorian era's frightful female affliction: hysteria. The cure? A vigorous pelvic massage until hysterical paroxysm is reached. Translation: masturbation.

But what had driven Fanny to this clinical climax? Years previously, when she was busy preparing for bliss-filled married life, she couldn't possibly have imagined she would need such a treatment. For the proper Victorian lady, her wedding day was the most important event of her whole life, but what was meant to be a happy occasion was also fraught with anxiety and conflicted emotions. On the one delicately white-gloved hand, she had secured a man who would provide for her and the future family that society dictated they should have. On the other, she had to get through the dreaded wedding night.

Carefully, the servants fastened the white satin gown – the only choice of hue since Queen Victoria's Big Day. One popular lady's monthly declared it “an emblem of the purity and innocence of girlhood, and the unsullied heart she now yields to the chosen one.” The wedding dress had become a frilled extension of a young bride's chasteness – an essential attribute for wifely material – but their grooms were not expected to be quite so pure.

Gazing into a hand mirror, our Victorian bride-to-be pinches her cheeks to add a rosy glow.

Respectable ladies like Fanny didn't wear rouge – that was reserved for prostitutes and actors. It was important to be attractive, but it was scandalous for a girl to use her good looks to seduce a man – just one of the many contrasting ideals the Victorian era is infamous for. Indeed, from a male's point of view, a woman's only ambition was to become a mother, and there was nothing sexual about that.

Take the doctor's word for it. “The majority of women (happily for them) are not very much troubled with sexual feeling of any kind,” said William Acton, a leading Victorian gynaecologist. “She submits herself to her husband, but only to please him; and, but for the desire of maternity, would far rather be relieved from his attentions.”

So what was a young bride to do? “Lie back and think of England,” one mother advised, or so the apocryphal story goes. Some alternative advice was a little more candid. “When he comes groping into the room she should make no sound to guide him in her direction, lest he take this as a sign of encouragement...” one 1894 article read. “There is always the hope that he will stumble and incur some slight injury which she can use as an excuse to deny sexual access.” Though this is likely a parody, it's not far from the prevailing attitudes of the time. Apparently, feigned headaches and sleepiness were among a wife's best friends,

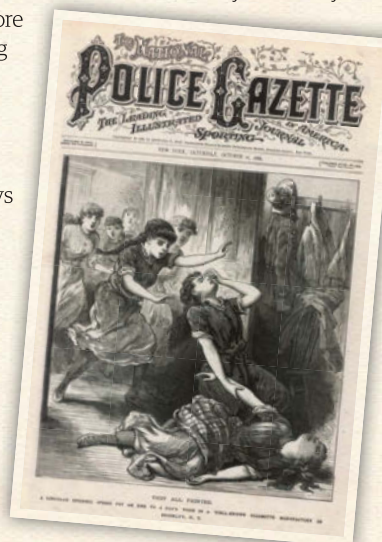
as was nagging and talking about housework about an hour before bed. And the cardinal rule of marriage? “Give little, give seldom, and above all, give grudgingly.”

### *Frustrated Fanny*

In Victorian society, it was thought that a woman's role as a wife and a mother was more than emotionally satisfying. As the Industrial Revolution transformed Britain into a whirring, smoke-belching business machine, the notion of ‘separate spheres’ was born. Men occupied the public sphere of economy and politics, and women were confined to the private sphere of the home – a moral safe haven. At the time there was no greater model for femininity and virtue than Queen Victoria herself, married to Albert and surrounded by her many children in Balmoral Castle.

Gender roles had never been more defined than in the Victorian era, and females were seen simply as furniture for the household. “By the mere fact of being born a male he is by right the superior of all and every one of an entire half of the human race,” wrote philosopher John Stuart Mill in 1867. Women would answer to their father and brothers and, eventually, their husband.

If you weren't hitched by your 25th birthday, you had no choice but to get comfortable sitting on





## Good Vibrations

the shelf. An unwed woman became a spinster or 'old maid' - someone to pity or poke fun at. The rules were different for men, of course. They were usually at least five years older than their bride, as they had to become financially secure to stand a chance of gaining her father's permission to marry. This age gap only reinforced the pecking order.

A good wife, like Fanny, stayed home and supervised the servants. She couldn't lend a hand, even if she wanted to - the fashionable yet cavernous crinoline skirts saw to that. Trapped under layers of heavy petticoats with nothing to do all day but receive visitors or sip tea, Fanny grew frustrated, depressed and anxious - natural feelings that would later become symptoms of a common malady among women.

Burying her head in a book all day wasn't an option for our Victorian lady, either. It was a frightfully masculine and unattractive thing to do, and if word spread she was interested in politics or Latin, she would be branded a 'bluestocking'. No one wanted that. Some doctors even believed that too much studying would zap the ovaries of energy and cause them to shrivel like prunes.

### *Rubbed up the wrong way*

There were those that challenged expectations, however. The famous 19th-century poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning suffered from an undiagnosed condition that meant she was unable to walk or do chores. Instead, she hid in the attic and wrote reams of poetry that tackled the issues of the day, from war to slavery and industrialisation. However, when she met her future husband, a handsome young poet called Robert Browning, she absconded to Italy and miraculously her health improved.

Another strong young woman, Charlotte Brontë, expressed her feelings through the heroine of her classic novel, *Jane Eyre*. "(Women) need exercise for their faculties and a field for their efforts as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid restraint, too absolute a stagnation, precisely as men would suffer." Not all of the Brontë sisters married, but the majority of women didn't have a choice. There were few opportunities to work, and they could not legally own a home. Marriage was one of the only means of livelihood.

Fast-forward some years since that highly anticipated wedding day and we find that Mrs Lovegood - now a wife and mother of two - is struggling to uphold her side of social convention. The vows they whispered that day had set the expectations for the rest of their marriage. While her groom swore to "love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health," she had to pledge to "obey him and serve him, love, honour and keep him."

Luckily, Fanny had plenty of advice at hand to remind her of her duties. One such book had this top tip to keep the hubby happy when he came home from work. "Don't let him search the house for you. Listen for his latch-key and meet him on the threshold." With these words of wisdom ringing in her head, Fanny greets him with a winsome smile, offers him a pair of slippers that she's warmed by the fire and listens to the details of his working day, nodding but never offering her opinion. Of course, worst of all, one should never, ever, "attempt to dictate to your husband on any subject. He won't stand for it, and there will be trouble."

But on occasion, Fanny - wound as tight as a whalebone corset - snaps. Her husband looks on wide eyed as she airs her feelings of suffocation and sadness. Shocked and distressed at this outburst, he does what any concerned and respectable man would do - he sends her to the doctor with a suspected mental disorder. Women were perceived as the gentler, more dependent and weaker sex, so it's no surprise they were considered to be prone to illness. However, the most common ailment of the age didn't actually exist.

### *The doctor will please you now*

Hysteria - from the Greek word 'hystera', meaning uterus - was a catchall term for any nervous or erratic behaviour. One physician in 1859 claimed a quarter of all women suffered from this malady and another catalogued 75 pages of possible symptoms, from muscle pain and restlessness to a loss of appetite and 'a tendency to cause trouble'.



## *a history of hysteria*

1600 BCE

### EGYPTIAN RECIPES

Uterus, come down from there! An Egyptian papyrus includes recipes for medicines that coax the pesky organ back into position.



5TH CENTURY BCE

### THE DISEASE GETS A NAME

Hippocrates is the first to use the term hysteria, from the Greek meaning 'uterus'. He tries to encourage the uterus back into position with fragrant concoctions.



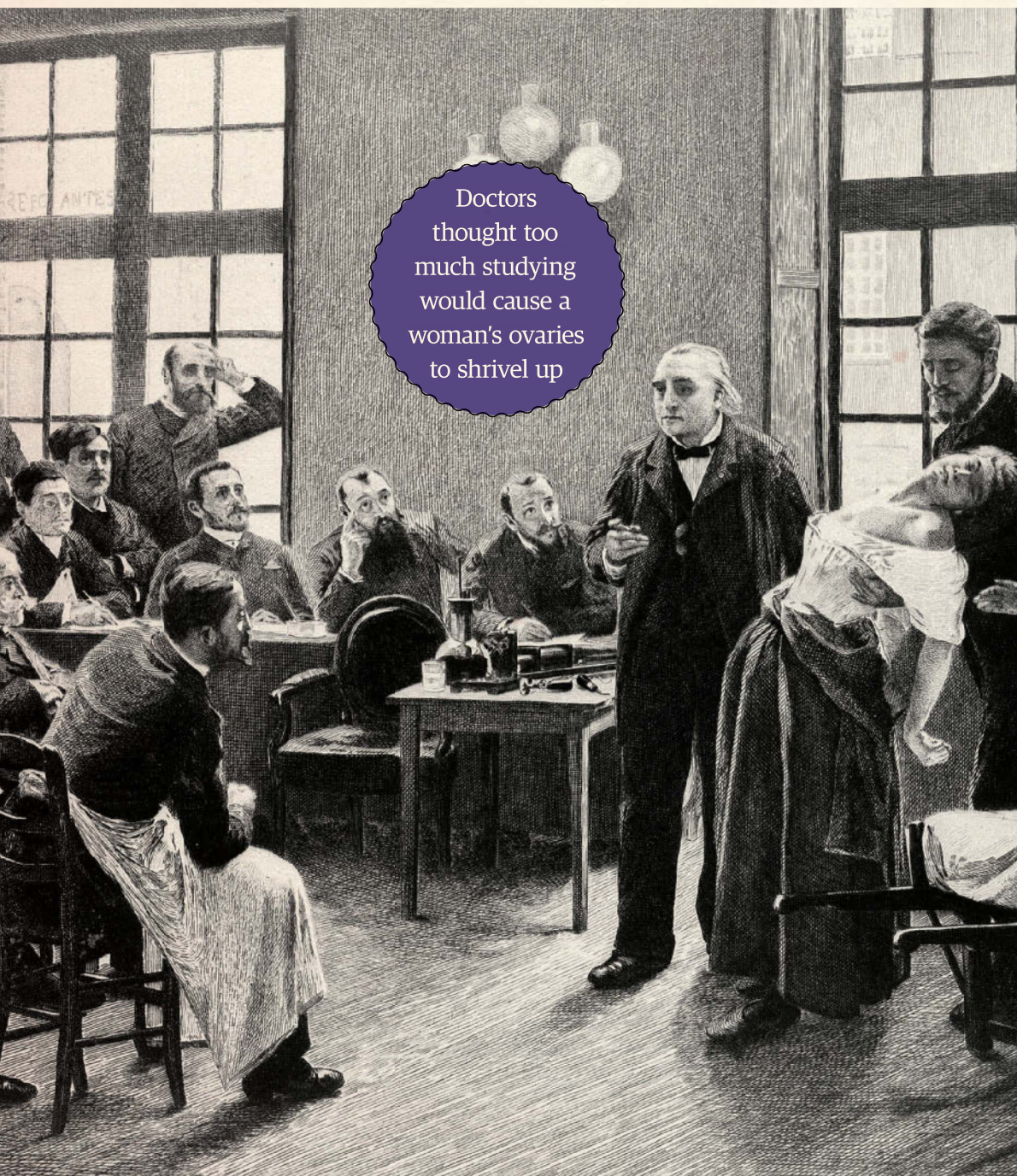
4TH CENTURY BCE

### WANDERING WOMB

Famous philosopher Plato also believes the uterus moves freely about the body and causes all kinds of symptoms such as anxiety and tremors.







## SPOTTING THE SYMPTOMS

If your wife shows any of these signs, send her to the doctor at once!

- ☐ SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- ☐ NERVOUSNESS
- ☐ FLUID RETENTION
- ☐ MUSCLE SPASM
- ☐ IRRITABILITY
- ☐ LOSS OF APPETITE
- ☐ FAINTNESS
- ☐ SEXUAL DESIRE
- ☐ HEAVINESS IN THE ABDOMEN
- ☐ INSOMNIA
- ☐ WETNESS BETWEEN THE THIGHS
- ☐ A TENDENCY TO CAUSE TROUBLE
- ☐ DEPRESSION
- ☐ ECCENTRIC BEHAVIOUR
- ☐ STRESS

### 1ST CENTURY BCE

#### SYMPTOMS IDENTIFIED

Roman medical writer Aulus Cornelius Celsus provides a clinical description of hysteria – “a violent disease”. He says it destroys the senses.



### 2ND CENTURY

#### MARRIAGE IS THE CURE

Greek physician Claudius Galen's treatments include purges, getting married or staying clear of anything that could excite a woman.



### VICTORIAN ERA, 1837-1901

#### SMELLING SALTS

Women carry a vial of smelling salts around to sniff whenever they feel faint. This is a throwback to Hippocrates' belief that the odour would return the uterus to its normal place.





# The development of the vibrator

1880-1920

## Dr Macaura's Pulsocon Blood Circulator

Designed for use on the face, scalp and... body, good health is guaranteed! Simply crank the handle to receive a generous 5,000 blows a minute. Disclaimer: The inventor Gerald Joseph Macaura was sentenced to three years for masquerading as a doctor.

1904-1907

## Dr Johansen's Vibrator

No electricity? No problem! Dr Johansen's device will instantly put the spark back into your bedroom - with a little help from a friend or spouse to turn the handle, this device will come to life with a force that will take your breath away.

1906

## Detwiller Pneumatic Vibrator

Cutting-edge industrial technology finally makes its debut between the sheets. This product also comes with multiple attachments called vibratodes, to put a little thrill into the thrum! Customer caution: device has potential to explode.

1928

## Polar Cub

Don't be fooled by the packaging - this isn't designed for polar bears. As our furry friend demonstrates, the Cub can be used on the face, neck, as well as other body parts in order to relieve tension.

1933

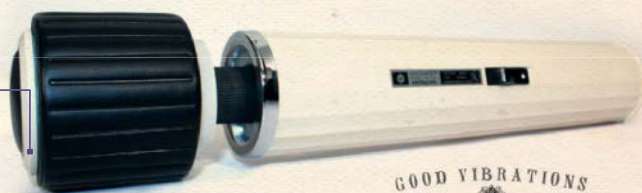
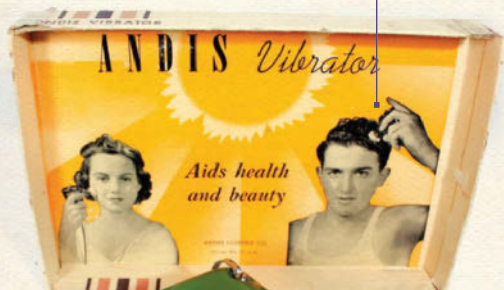
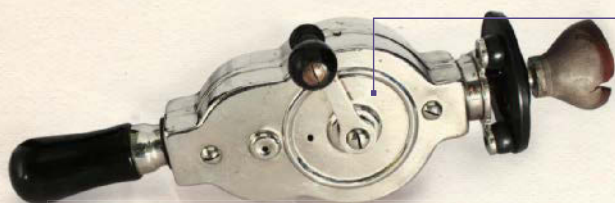
## Vibrosage

Rushed off your feet with housework? Become the envy of your neighbours with Vibrosage, the compact and discreet contraption that proves that size isn't everything. In just a few minutes, it will give you the attention you deserve and leave you with a natural, youthful glow.

LATE 1960S

## Hitachi Magic Wand

At an impressive 12 inches long this 'massage accessory' will fit snugly into any wizard's sleeve and conjure up guaranteed satisfaction. A mains charger is also included, meaning that you can remain spellbound for hours.



## a history of hysteria

C. 1860

## PELVIC DOUCHE DEVICE

France fights hysteria with a big, powerful hose pointed straight at the pelvis. The 'pelvic douche device' works to stop the uterus from moving.



MID-LATE 19TH CENTURY

## PERSONAL MASSAGE

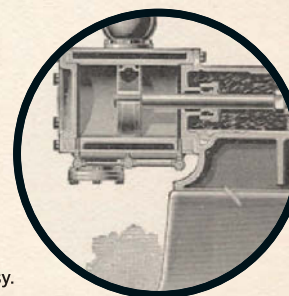
Physicians administer pelvic massages to patients, which temporarily relieves the symptoms of hysteria.



1869

## THE MANIPULATOR

American physician George Taylor patents the first steam-powered vibrator, christened The Manipulator, which is extremely large and noisy.





A teenage Florence Nightingale showed signs of hysteria: frequent outbursts and loss of appetite



## Life in the asylum

The place to send your troubled wives, relatives and friends. From genuine illnesses to made-up maladies, the asylum was a one-stop shop for anyone that society didn't know how to deal with. The majority of inmates were women and they were often committed by their husbands or fathers. They would have no right to appeal, even if the 'incident' that put them there was refusing a life of domesticity. In the asylum, they would be subjected to more male dominance by the doctors that presided there. It was considered therapeutic at the time, but the reality couldn't have been more disturbing.

Forced to live in cramped conditions, patients were kept spoiled, unclean and starved into submission. Their relatives may have believed they were receiving the best care, but inmates were treated as unwilling guinea pigs for the latest medical tests, including electric shock therapy and lobotomies. One patient wrote to her parents: "Soon I shall lose the brains I had... I feel I shall go on degenerating in this environment into an animal."

The diagnosis was bizarre but the treatments were even more absurd. Some were prescribed a one-way ticket to the insane asylum while others were given a cruel and unwanted hysterectomy, but the patients that came again and again were those who were treated with a pelvic massage. The 'hysterical paroxysm' this induced was thought to be very effective at relieving the symptoms of the condition, and proved extremely profitable for the doctors who carried out this 'procedure'.

At a time when remedies were often deadlier than the diseases, hysteria was one of the few afflictions that could be treated without risk to the patient's life. Those who could afford it looked forward to their weekly appointment, as the doctors went to great lengths to satisfy the women in their care. There was nothing titillating about it, because everyone knew women were incapable of such feelings, and though this was yet another example of men exerting control over women, there were minimal complaints.

Men of medicine saw it as their duty, however, many found the technique tricky to master, and the massage could take up to an hour. Necessity called for a rather unusual invention: the steam-powered vibrator. Christened 'The Manipulator',

this labour-saving device was conceived in 1869 by American physician George Taylor. The size of a dinner table, it required doctors to shovel coal into the engine and was far too cumbersome for house calls. With some tinkering, Dr Joseph Mortimer Granville created an electromechanical device called a 'percusser' or, colloquially, 'Granville's hammer'. It was said to be designed for relieving muscle pain, but doctors rejoiced in its effectiveness for treating hysteria. The hour of manual toil was reduced to just five minutes, and by the early 1900s, similar models were available commercially. In fact, it became the fifth electrical appliance to enter the home, along with the teakettle, fan, sewing machine and toaster.

The personal massager, as it was known, created such a stir that adverts appeared in periodicals, from *Needlecraft* to *Woman's Home Companion*. "Vibration is life," one claimed. "Perfect relaxation is perfect health," cried another. The true purpose was concealed and adverts often pictured ladies using the device as a facial massager, but the discerning public knew better. Vibrators were portrayed to be about as sexual as a cutlery set, and that's how Fanny Lovegood was able to purchase one without arousing her husband's suspicions.

With a release from the long hours of boredom, her mood improved immeasurably.

She wasn't alone. Why pay a doctor when treatment can be administered at home? The popularity of the appliance saw doctors' profits dwindle, and as there was less to gain from the 'disorder', fewer people were being diagnosed. This was also around the time that Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis, published papers on hysteria as a mental, rather than physical, condition. He identified paroxysm as sexual, which must have caused Victorian doctors to blush and quickly abandon the treatment. Rather, Freud used hypnosis to coax his patients into opening up.

This, coupled with a greater understanding of neurological disorders such as epilepsy, meant symptoms were no longer attributed to hysteria. Eventually, this disease of the imagination was struck off medical associations' lists of recognised conditions and now, no one has it. Laws and society took a long time to reform in order to truly benefit Fanny Lovegood and repressed Victorian women like her. But things improved for her daughter, and her daughter's daughter - although there's still a long way to go. As for the vibrator, that continues to cause a buzz in society today.

© Mary Evans, Antique Vibrator Museum

1800S

### NERVE DISEASE

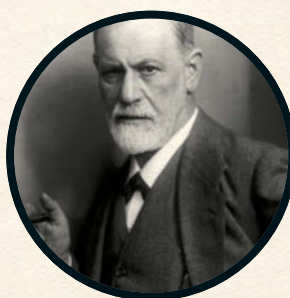
Rather than a sexual issue, French neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot proposes hysteria is a nerve disease, akin to multiple sclerosis.



1890S

### UNCONSCIOUS CONFLICTS

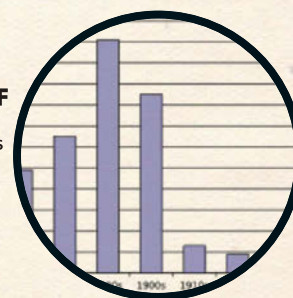
This is what Sigmund Freud believes is the cause of hysteria. For treatment, he puts his patients under hypnosis to enable them to talk through their issues.



EARLY 1900S

### FALLING OUT OF FASHION

The term gradually fades from medical use and, eventually, it is dropped from lists of recognised conditions. Vibrators become mass-market.









# VIRTUAL REALITY BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

Dan Snow tells us about how introducing modern technology to heritage sites can benefit the study of history

Written by Jack Griffiths

**M**aking history appealing to a worldwide audience is a constant battle. Hollywood and the gaming industry help bring history to life for all generations but what's available for those who want to see the past exactly as it was without paying for the cinema, investing in a games console or visiting a distant historical site armed with a vivid imagination? Enter broadcaster and historian Dan Snow and his new 360-degree VR video series.

History is all around us, but for the sites that are too far out of reach, this is an innovative way of reaching out to the past. Snow has advocated virtual reality as a new yet simple way of bringing history to the fore. His mission is to bring incredible objects to the widest possible audience and allow them to walk through in virtual reality. The interactive nature of the VR video series has the ability to transport audiences from the comfort of their own home and allow them to experience history in a way they may have not been able to before. With VR, people can see history from across the globe, whether it's an artefact, a memorial or the scene of a pivotal battle. We caught up with Snow to talk about this exciting new project.

Today, Snow's 360-degree VR video series has made its way to Chatham Historic Dockyard. The home of HMS Cavalier, HMS Ocelot and HMS Gannet, the site is an important centre of naval history. All three ships have a rich history of war service, which meant Snow was keen to add them to the VR video series. Talking about Cavalier, he said: "It's a very special ship and one of the very few destroyers left from World War II. Destroyers played such a critical role in the war and 50 from one class alone were lost. The Cavalier has had a very interesting career. It's been in both the Arctic and the North Atlantic and

even staved off German air attacks off the Isle of Wight. It dealt with an Indian mutiny in Bombay (Mumbai) and is an incredible ship in epic turning points of history."

## VR in the HMS Cavalier

Descending to the depths of HMS Cavalier's engine room, the great history of the ship comes to light, especially the bravery of the crew. To defend effectively from both the Luftwaffe and the Kriegsmarine, those in the engine room were expected to sacrifice themselves for the ship.

When at battle stations, all portholes were closed to make the hull watertight, which would help prevent Cavalier from sinking when it was struck by shells. The air locked inside would help keep the ship afloat but at the cost of the engine crew's lives. The silver lining to this fateful situation was that in the Arctic Circle, the engine room was by far the warmest place on the vessel, so at least they wouldn't feel the chill. This is another reason why VR is so innovative; anyone can witness all this and see every dial and lever without actually being there. The 360-degree view helps viewers get in the mindset of what it was like to be deep down in the belly of a destroyer in wartime.

Everything in the room is mechanical, not digital, and it would have taken an

immense amount of elbow grease to keep the ship working effectively and consistently. The men would have run a two-shift system of 12 hours, making it essential to have 15-minute naps when they weren't at battle stations.

As well as Cavalier, Ocelot and Gannet represent two distinct yet equally fascinating parts of British history. Ocelot is an O-Class diesel electric submarine that saw service during the Cold War while Gannet is a living representation

"I am passionate about new ways of using technology to reach hitherto unreachable history audiences. Too many people think they don't like history. They're wrong because history is awesome and is everything that's ever happened on this planet. Everyone's interested in how their past affects the present"

**Dan Snow**

## HISTORY & GAMING

How Wargaming is playing its part in deepening our understanding



From *Wolfenstein* to *Assassin's Creed*, history has long proved fertile ground for

videogames. Many of the releases were generous with their use of artistic licence but *War Thunder* by Gaijin Entertainment is a proud exception. As the screenshots below illustrate, games are becoming more historically accurate than ever, helping gamers connect with the events behind their favourite titles.



**Above:** A Soviet factory as it looked like during the Battle of Stalingrad in World War II



**Above:** *War Thunder's* take on the same factory is frighteningly lifelike



# "WE TAKE HISTORY SERIOUSLY AND IT'S PART OF OUR DNA"

A quick chat with Wargaming's Director of Special Projects, Tracy Spaight

## **Why are you here at Chatham?**

We are filming a new series called *Virtually Inside The Warship* on HMS Cavalier, a C-Class Destroyer launched in 1944 and saw service in the war's Arctic campaigns.

## **How important is it to Wargaming to be realistic and authentic?**

I think it's something that permeates the entire culture of the company. We take history seriously and it's part of our DNA. When we're building a tank or ship in the game, our team goes to great pains to make it look exactly like it's supposed to look. We want to capture the look and feel so we look at blueprints, operating manuals, historical photographs and other documents to make it as accurate as possible. If there's an existing version of the tank or ship in the world, we go and look at that and make sure our measurements are precise. If possible, we'll even fire up the engine to see how it sounded and worked. We have a separate team to take care of all of this.

Wargaming is undertaking a 360-degree VR video series called *Virtually Inside Warships*. Wargaming, who is the glue bonding this project together, the original progenitor of the idea, and the organization whose mission it is to bring innovative new media heritage storytelling experiences to its quite massive online audience with a particular affinity toward the subject matter. We are an extremely unique organization, doing some never-before-seen work at the cross-section of new media, gaming, and history. This is a natural step in evolution from our previous *Tanks* VR video projects, a way of making the experience even deeper, richer, more immersive.



The videos are currently limited to YouTube but could soon be available on the likes of Google Cardboard

of the Victorian Royal Navy at its peak - when gunboat diplomacy protected the interests of the British Empire. VR will allow you to witness and appreciate all these eras of history, and as Snow puts it: "It's so game changing that I think people have to see it to believe it. You can put on a headset and walk around the ship deciding on what you want to look at along with commentary. It's as close as you're going to get to the ship without coming onboard yourself."

## **Making history accessible**

Virtual reality is a new and exciting medium of historical presentation but what does Snow take into consideration when making that perfect history hit? "You've got to choose great stories and for me the perfect history programmes are where there's an amazing story to tell that is fascinating in its own right and has impacted the way subsequent history has gone. Secondly, is it visually exciting? Are there great landscapes and buildings? Are there veterans to talk to with archives and documents from the time? If you combine those two, these factors make the TV shows I want to make."

## **The future for history and VR**

So how far can the relationship between VR and history go? "100 years ago people got into history

through historic novels. 50 years ago it was Hollywood films and more recently the likes of *Gladiator*, *Braveheart* and *Saving Private Ryan*. Very flawed films historically but films that conjure up a vision of the past that is extremely attractive and sucks you in. I've written about history, I've blogged and tweeted about history, I've made podcasts and videos about history and I can safely say that VR is the most intense and rewarding method of getting history out there." All the videos are available online on YouTube and allow the viewer to take control and choose their ideal viewpoint as Snow explores the ship. As well as a desktop computer, the 360 VR video can be watched on mobile devices, laptops and virtual reality headsets, making this type of media a flexible and very different storytelling experience. This really is telling history like never before. As well as Chatham, Dan Snow has visited the likes of Rochester Castle, the Tower of London and the National Motor Museum with his VR technology. As 2016 goes on, anniversaries for the Battle of the Somme, Jutland and Pearl Harbor are coming thick and fast and Dan Snow's 360-degree VR video series is sure to play a part.



AAH spoke to Dan Snow at Chatham Historic Dockyard, which is at the forefront of 360-degree VR video series



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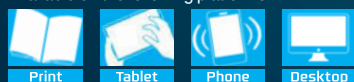


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# REVIEWS

All About History on the books, TV shows and  
films causing a stir in the history world

## MONSTROUS LITTLE VOICES

The fantastical world of Shakespeare taken to new heights  
**Author Various Publisher Abaddon Price £7.99 Released Out now**

The worlds of William Shakespeare are rich with characters, from the magical faeries of *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, to the historical figures depicted through the major events of their lives.

*Monstrous Little Voices* takes this plethora of famous muses and uses them to its own devices. Six authors - including Jonathan Barnes, Adrian Tchaikovsky, Emma Newman, Kate Heartfield and Foz Meadows with an afterword from Dr John Lavagnino, from the Shakespeare Centre at King's College - have shaped the worlds to create their own stories, from following characters from *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar* and *Twelfth Night* among others.

Each story opens with its relevant passage of Shakespeare's original texts, giving you insight into the master playwright's world, titled using a line from the play from which the basis is set. Only you have the worlds of *The Tempest* colliding with *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, and marriages happening across two different plays. Covering the same themes as the classic works, the opening story, 'Coral Bones', sees *The Tempest*'s Miranda disguising herself as a man to travel with the hobgoblin Puck.

*Monstrous Little Voices* concentrates for the most part on Shakespeare's comedies, bringing together his fantastical worlds to create a linked universe, which makes sense, as having Hamlet running about with the likes of Puck and *A Midsummer's Night Dream*'s mechanicals wouldn't fit the theme of the book. And it would, quite frankly, possibly give any hard-core Shakespeare fanatics heart palpitations at the misuse of his characters. But the book is careful not to tread in the waters of the tragedies, keeping its tone light-hearted

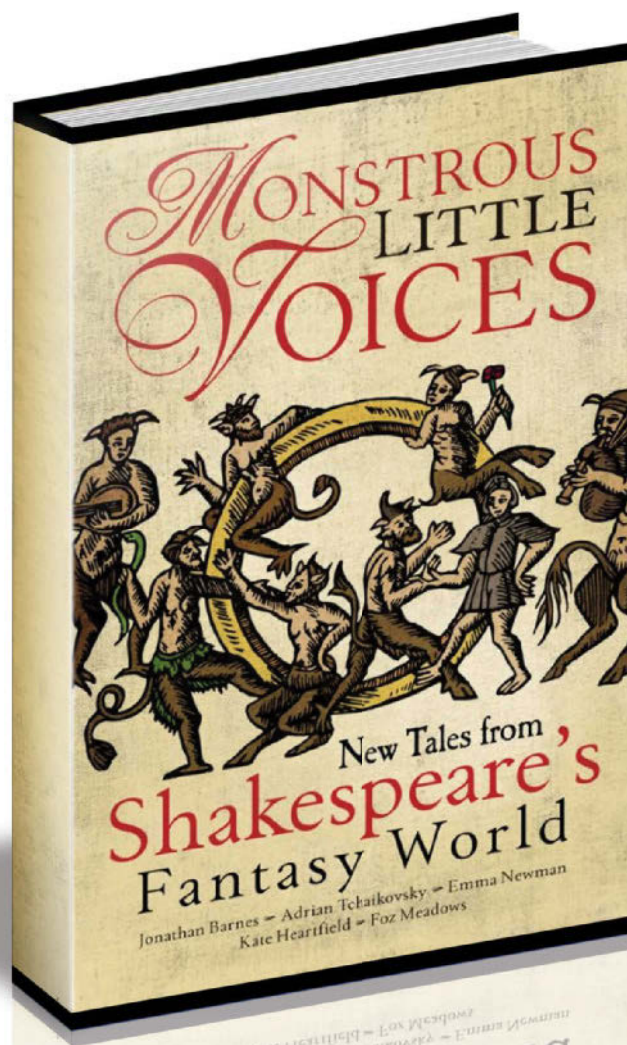
throughout. This, after all, is a book for the fantastical not the literal worlds of the Bard.

The structure of some of the pieces is very simple, teaming a lot of dialogue with very little descriptive text. It is reminiscent of the plays on which they are based. They would almost work better if kept within that format. Shakespeare wasn't famed for his heavy-handed stage direction, though the occasional addition of choice actions add amusement to readings, yet remain purely specific to events. Some of the stories, 'The Unkindest Cut' in particular, takes pleasure in slowly eeking out the action, creating beautiful imagery of trembling hands about a knife as Lucia learns the art of killing. In 'On The Twelfth Night' the author has elected to open new chapters with play-style scene descriptors and stage directions, with only adds to the intrigue of the piece.

*Monstrous Little Voices* remains true to this format and creates very easy reading.

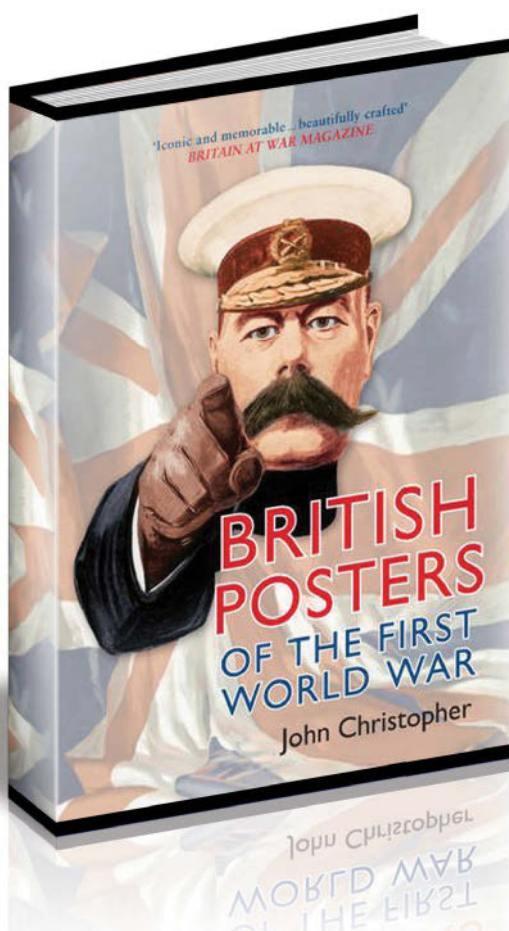
What is a little disappointing is the lack of highly provocative wordplay that the Bard is so famous for, yet perhaps it could be found with extra layers of analysis. It isn't to say that the texts aren't enjoyable, they are, but Shakespeare's works were never intended to be read: they were made to be performed and it seems as though *Monstrous Little Voices* could benefit from the same treatment.

There is a lot to like here; they are enjoyable excerpts playing in Shakespeare's sand pit, but they are probably best read by those with a lot of prior knowledge of the plays in which they are based. There is a lot of assumed knowledge, which works for what the project is. The authors have handled another's world competently and produced an entertaining piece.



"The book is careful not to tread in the waters of the tragedies, keeping its tone light-hearted throughout"





# BRITISH POSTERS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

"Your chums are fighting, why aren't you?"

**Author** John Christopher **Publisher** Amberley **Price** £14.99 **Released** Out now

The poster of Lord Kitchener with his fashionable handlebar moustache, staring intently at the reader and telling them "Your country needs YOU!", is one of the most enduring images to survive World War I.

This concept has been copied for war propaganda by countries other than Britain and in the decades since, has been parodied ad infinitum for advertising campaigns, mugs and T-shirts across the world.

But it's far from being the only World War I poster to endure the test of time: in the absence of the internet, television and in the dawn of radio, posters were the number one way to sell your product and hammer your point home. Whether it was a recruitment drive for the Western Front, selling war bonds or flogging Bovril to the housewives back home, from 1914-18, there was a poster for it.

Page after page, John Christopher has left his compilation of full-colour posters portraying

beckoning sergeants, appeals to patriotic pride and the guilt of abandoning friends to the 'Hun' do most of the talking - short of a few appropriately placed captions.

It appeals on two very distinct levels: put your historian hat on and you'll recognise famous contemporaneous faces or iconic objects (such as the British liner sunk by the Germans, the RMS Lusitania) that were intended to evoke an emotional response from the average man of recruitment age. Particularly for those with an interest in the psychology of advertising, the efforts of the authorities to gloss over the hard truths of the front line and inspire the British people to support the war, are still refreshingly crude and frank.

As blunt as the military's recruitment advertising seems today, compared to a century ago it's still a subtle art. And after 200 pages of hard-hitting posters, we're feeling a bit ashamed about dodging the draft ourselves.

# CAPTURING JACK THE RIPPER

The mysterious murderer of Whitechapel

**Author** Neil R A Bell **Publisher** Amberley **Price** £9.99 **Released** Out now

The Victorian serial killer has always been a hot topic of discussion for historians. With over 100 years since his last murders, hints and clues as to who he was are still being found. His popularity has led to themed tours of the capital, several television shows and a host of films starring Hollywood's biggest names. The intrigue remains.

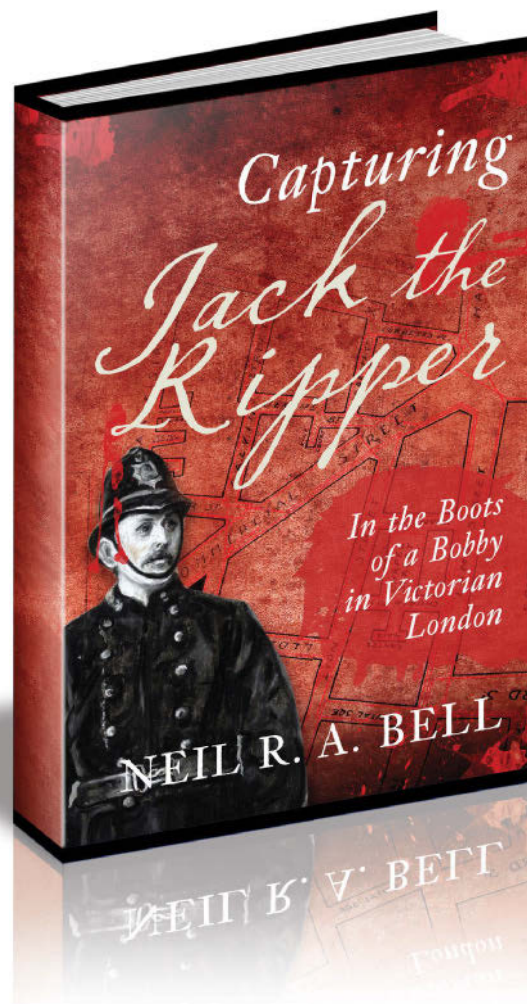
Written by Jack the Ripper expert Neil R A Bell - who has acted as a Ripperologist on several projects including *Ripper Street - Capturing Jack The Ripper* details each of the cases linked to the world's most famous, historical serial killer. Taking the reader through each of the cases step by step, the book offers a thorough, and enlightening, look into the notorious murderer.

The setup of the book looks into the world of the Victorian police who were tasked with finding the Whitechapel murderer, detailing how the police were recruited, where they operated

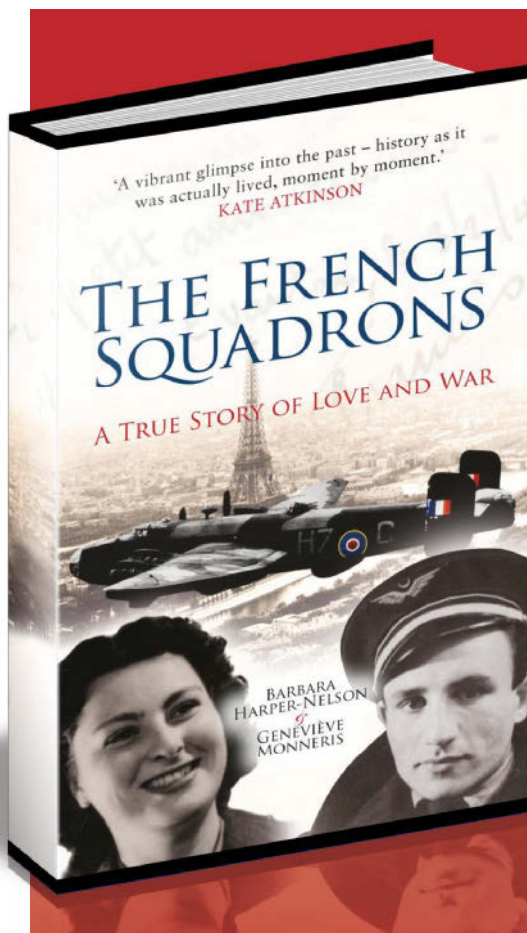
and how. Bell continues then to look into the five cases that were canonically committed by Jack, as well as the taunting letters that were received during the period, and a look at the other murders took place in the three years that could also be linked to the Ripper.

Inset in the book are 72 illustrations covering various elements of the cases from the victims' portraits, to the scenes of the crimes, informative notes from the cases and maps detailing the local areas. These clear photographs serve as a brutal reminder that this killer was active in the not-too-distant past, and yet in a completely different world. How easy it would be compared to the Victorian-era policing to find him should he have been active today.

Overall, *Capturing Jack The Ripper* is a book perfect for both enthusiasts looking for a fresh read and those with a passing interest in the legacy that surrounds the Leather Apron.







## THE FRENCH SQUADRONS: A TRUE STORY OF LOVE AND WAR

A heart-warming story from an era of turmoil

**Authors** Barbara Harper-Nelson and Genevieve Monneris

**Publisher** Amberley **Price** £9.99 **Released** Out now

Not every story from World War II has to involve soaring Spitfires or rumbling Tiger tanks; in fact, some of the most powerful tales told from the war are much simpler than that. *The French Squadrons: A True Story Of Love And War* takes this softer approach, and this account from Barbara Harper-Nelson is one of pure emotion and longing during a period of great turmoil.

A 19-year-old from northwest England, Harper-Nelson's life was changed forever after a chance meeting with a 22-year-old French airman by the name of Francis Usai. Sadly, Usai was called away to the continent to fight for the Allies, but the two decided to keep in touch by means of a series of poignant letters. The book is a combination of the original correspondence and Harper-Nelson's diaries from the years between 1944 and 1946, and the result is a touching and fascinating story of lovers separated by war.

The sentiment felt by the young couple bursts out from the pages throughout and you'd have a heart of stone not to immerse yourself into this saga of unconditional love. As Harper-Nelson waits eagerly for her French companion to return to Liverpool, Usai is fighting in the skies of Europe, suffering injuries and scoring downs against the Luftwaffe. As well as the relationship between the two, there's also a lot of history in the pages and the reader really gets a sense of the contrast between the relative peace of wartime Britain and the ferocity of life in wartime France.

However, the main thrust of the book is still the love story and if lines such as "He repeated a number of times that he loves me, even if he thinks it is hopeless" don't get you emotional, then this isn't the book for you. It may run out of steam slightly towards the end, but this is history not Hollywood and it remains an engaging tale of love and companionship.

## HISTORY WAR RECOMMENDS...

### The Rising: Ireland: 1916

**Author:** Fearghal McGarry **Price:** £20  
**Publisher:** Oxford University Press

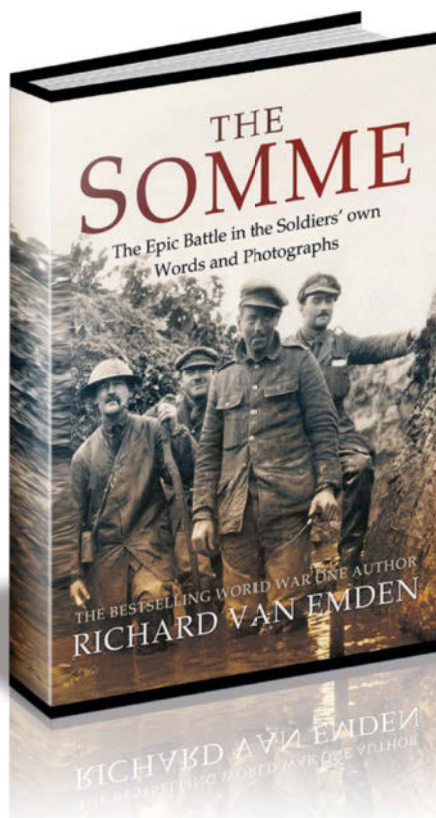


The Easter Rising of 1916 is the seminal moment of modern Irish history. Although the rebellion itself was a military failure, it led to a heavy-handed British response, which in turn helped to spark the chain of events that would lead to the creation of an Irish Free State in 1922 and the partition of the states that exist to this day. This is an excellent introduction for anyone who seeks to understand the beginning of the modern Irish Republic and its enduring legacy in the complicated political history between Ireland and Britain.

## THE SOMME

The epic battle in the soldiers' own words and photographs

**Author** Richard van Emden **Publisher** Pen and Sword **Price** £25 **Released** Out now

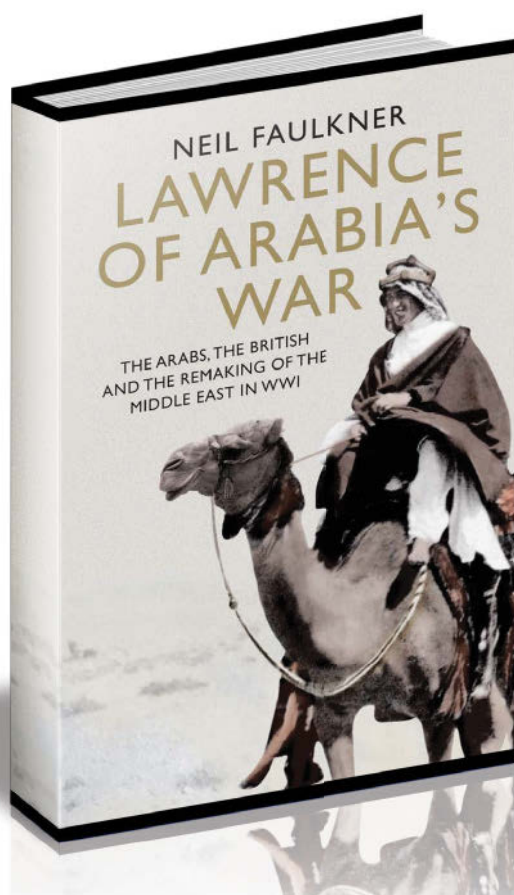


The Somme is a subject that has been covered in film, television and literature time and time again, so you'd be forgiven for wondering what new can be brought to the table. But in the latest non-fiction book on World War I's most infamous battle, released to commemorate its 100th anniversary, Richard Van Emden offers up stories that have never been told before. In this personal account of the oft-dehumanised battle, the soldiers' own letters and diary excerpts are used to tell the tragic tale, accompanied by never-before-published photographs taken on their own illegally possessed cameras. As van Emden rightly notes in his introduction, official photography of the war is used so often that their impact is greatly diminished, and these images allow you to see the trenches in

much the same way as the men themselves would have seen them, with just as much impact.

What is most striking about these letters is their ability to make the reader smile, laugh even, as much as cry. We learn a new side to the war that the history books missed out: the piano playing, the sock mending, the cat who was afraid of rats. Through the chaos and the devastation, the beauty of the Somme region is a recurring theme in the soldiers' accounts, while one even describes the 'joy of war'. Of course, the experiences all differ greatly, and we are constantly reminded of the absurdity and needlessness of it all. Van Emden's book does these men a huge service, many of whom deserve a place among the First World War literature greats, and who now will never be forgotten.





## LAWRENCE OF ARABIA'S WAR: THE ARABS, THE BRITISH AND THE REMAKING OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN WWI

The legendary soldier, writer and archaeologist is the subject of a brand new study

**Author** Neil Faulkner **Publisher** Yale University Press **Price** £25 **Released** Out now

**T**he story of T E Lawrence and his precise role during the Arab Revolt is one of the most famous of World War I. Lawrence became a legendary figure in his own lifetime and remains so today. There have been many books that have focused on his remarkable career, but few that have combined both Lawrence and the Middle Eastern conflict as a whole in equal measure.

Neil Faulkner's new study is fair to both Lawrence and the war in the desert itself. Lawrence's celebrated memoir, *Seven Pillars Of Wisdom*, is now confirmed, not just as a fascinating work of literature but also as a reliable source for the Arab Revolt. Additionally, Faulkner provides in-depth chapters on the factors that shaped Lawrence's war, such as the resilience of the Ottoman Empire, operations in Arabia, Palestine, Sinai and Syria and the ambitions of the Western imperial powers.

It is perhaps easy to romanticise the mobile desert warfare that took place, but Faulkner's work shows that the war in the Middle East was every bit as vicious as the fighting on the Western Front and he uses a vast range of primary sources, from Lawrence, General Allenby and the Arab leaders to Ottomans and ordinary soldiers. This variety enhances a book that is already highly readable and provides an excellent balance between the complex political circumstances of the era with the daily struggle of fighting in a hostile and unforgiving landscape.

In terms of organisation, the book is also strictly chronological, which is to its credit as it allows the war to develop on its own before properly introducing Lawrence nearly halfway through. Faulkner's work is an excellent introduction to the campaigns that shaped today's conflict in the Middle East and the extraordinary man who was caught up in it.

## PIRATES, PRISONERS AND LEPERS: LESSONS FROM LIFE OUTSIDE LAW

The worst adversities can bring out the best in man

**Authors** Paul H Robinson and Sarah M Robinson

**Publisher** Potomac Books Inc **Price** £19.99 **Released** Out now

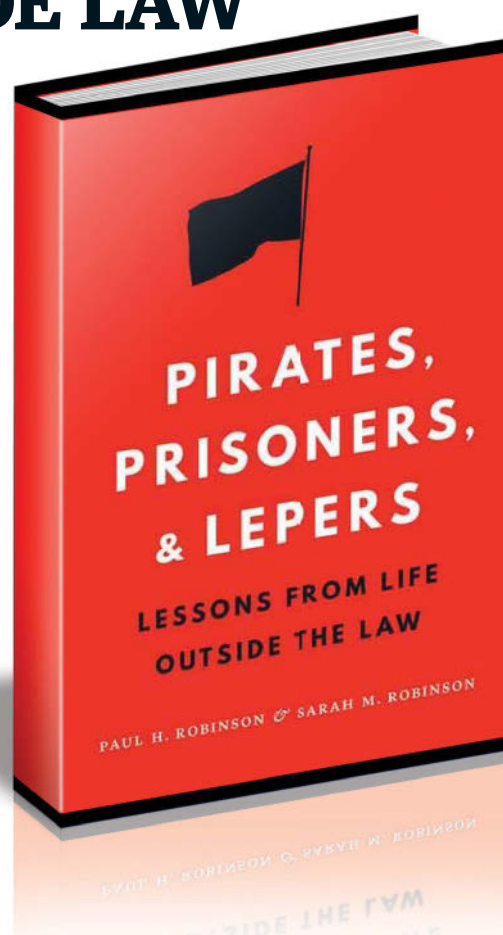
**H**istory is defined by its rebels and outcasts. At least, that is the message of *Pirates, Prisoners, And Lepers*. In this incredible exploration of humanity pushed to its limits, Paul H Robinson and Sarah M Robinson discuss the importance of social order through the survival of individuals completely separated from law and civilisation. Would we still retain our morals and cooperate to survive if we are left to our own devices, or would we fight for our own gain to come out on top?

In this book, the two Robinsons (one a top criminal law scholar, the other a former sergeant in the US Army and social worker) provide a closer look at numerous occasions through history where man was posed with extreme circumstances, such as plane crashes, leper colonies and Nazi concentration camps, to see how people worked together to survive. A prime example is the 1973 Andes plane crash disaster, where survivors resorted to cannibalism to

prevent starvation. Separated from society and criminal justice, the group still established task teams and leadership, made sacrifices to save the weak (eating only the dead), and organised rescue expeditions, disproving Hobbes's theory that without law "every man is enemy to every man".

But it's not just innocent victims of tragic accidents that feature in this compilation. It also includes those who deliberately live outside of the law, such as pirates, prison uprisings and utopian hippie communes, showing how even those consciously live without an organised government still implement a system of social order and code.

Overall, the book provides interesting insight to some of the most incredible examples of humans' capability to survive and thrive when faced with extreme adversity. It assumes a positive outlook upon human's inherent nature as good, showing how our morals do not depend on social structure or central government.







## *Five minutes with* **AUSTIN STOWELL**

### **WE TALK TO THE ACTOR ABOUT HIS ROLE AS FRANCIS GARY POWERS IN 'BRIDGE OF SPIES', THE HISTORICAL DRAMA-THRILLER BASED ON THE INFAMOUS 1960 U-2 INCIDENT**

#### **When did you get the call?**

The call came from my agent. Originally I went for the part of Donovan (Tom Hanks)'s assistant but because of the shape I was in at the time, I was told that I looked more like a linebacker than a clerk in a law office. I didn't hear anything more about it but then all of a sudden my agent called and said we had an offer to play the pilot, Francis Gary Powers. Of course, I was over the moon and I did my usual tradition of jumping in a pool with all my clothes on!

#### **How did it feel to play Powers?**

He's certainly somebody who's been misjudged and definitely an American hero. This is somebody who spent three years in a KGB prison. The only information Powers gave to the Soviets was information about the plane that he thought they could gather on their own anyway. He was very worried that one of the other pilots in his unit would be shot down because of information he gave. He played everything very close to his chest once he was captured.

I didn't initially know who Powers was and that's a shame as he's somebody I now hold in the highest regard for his sacrifices for this country and the freedom we get to enjoy everyday. Once I got the role, I started talking to my older relatives, particularly my grandmother, who remembers the day it happened. She knew exactly who Powers was and you could tell she had questioned his motives. When Powers returned to the USA, the Soviets had released so much propaganda about him: that he had been learning Russian and was thinking about staying in the Soviet Union because he had enjoyed his time there so much. But that couldn't have been further from the truth. The only communication he did have was through his Latvian cellmate, who he always thought might have been a plant by the KGB. He knew English and could talk to and translate for Powers. That was the extent of his social life while he was in the Soviet Union. He wanted nothing more than to get home and he is quoted as saying on the bridge that if something went wrong, he's just to make a run for it. He didn't care if he was shot.

#### **How did you get into his mind set and what he was going through?**

Of course I had no idea what it was actually like to be in solitary confinement for close to 90 days or three years in a KGB prison half way around the world. But you know, I've been lonely, so I tried to adapt those raw emotions. I asked the production team to leave me in the cell and lock the door when we weren't shooting. When you're locked in, it's a very claustrophobic environment. It's the quiet that really gets to you. We live in a world of noise – music, the buzz of the city, dogs barking – but in there there's no sound except the sound that you make. There is no echo, so any sound that you do make sounds stale and off-putting.

#### **Did you get to speak to Francis Gary Powers Jr about his father?**

I spent quite a bit of time with him and one of the best things he did for me was give me his audiotapes. They had been recorded in the late 1960s and early 1970s when Powers was speaking to an interviewer about his experience. I don't think there's any greater tool other than meeting the man in person – hearing the voice of the man you're trying to portray, I couldn't ask for better than that.

*'Bridge Of Spies' is available to buy on Digital HD, Blu-ray™ and DVD now, courtesy of 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment.*



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# HISTORY ANSWERS

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## FERDINAND MAGELLAN

Nationality: Portuguese  
Born-died: 1480-1521

### Brief Bio

Born into a noble Portuguese family, Magellan became involved in his first expeditions in his mid-20s, and soon journeyed to India, Africa and present-day Indonesia. In 1517, after a disagreement with the Portuguese king, he successfully enlisted the support of the Spanish king for the very first round-the-world expedition.

Magellan found passage through South America via a strait that he named after himself - the Strait of Magellan



## How was the Great Wall of China built?

Joanna Bennett

Construction of the Great Wall began in 220 BCE, when Emperor Qin Shi Huang demanded that sections of earlier fortifications be joined together to form a defence system against invasions from the north. Soldiers, commoners and convicts carried out the work using whatever materials were available locally. In the plains, earth was rammed into compact layers between board frames; in the mountains, stone was piled high; in the desert, walls of reeds and willow were stuck together with sand. Much of the material was transported via human chains, basket and pulley systems and one-wheel barrows. However, much of the Great Wall that exists today was constructed during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), when construction methods had advanced. Bricks made from local materials in factories close to the wall were secured together with lime mortar, forming a stronger structure that could withstand the new weapons of the time - muskets and cannons.

Much of the Great Wall that exists today was built from bricks and mortar during the Ming dynasty



## Who was the first person to circumnavigate the globe?

Colin Wood

The credit for this historic feat is often bestowed upon Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who led a fleet of five ships in search of a western route to the spice-rich East Indies.

He and his crew of 260 men set off from Spain in September 1519 and successfully found passage across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, but two years into the journey, tragedy struck. During a fight with natives in the Philippine Islands, Magellan was killed, leaving the rest of his crew to go on without him. Just one ship and only 18 men returned to Spain in September 1522 having

completed a successful navigation of the globe. Therefore, Basque mariner Juan Sebastian Elcano, who took control of the expedition after Magellan's death, is considered by many to be the first person to voyage around the world.

However, others believe that a Malaysian called Enrique deserves the honour. Enrique was a slave that Magellan had seized from Europe during an earlier voyage, and became his interpreter for the round-the-world trip. He left the expedition when Magellan was killed, but by this time he had very nearly circled the globe, albeit over the course of several years and multiple voyages.

## This day in history 28 April

1881

### Billy The Kid escapes

Imprisoned and sentenced to hang for the murder of Lincoln County sheriff William Brady, outlaw Billy The Kid manages to escape jail. A few months later, the new sheriff will find him and shoot him dead.

1945

### Benito Mussolini executed

While attempting to escape Switzerland, the Italian dictator and his mistress Clara Petacci are captured and shot by Italian partisans. Their bodies are hung in a Milan plaza and residents spit on their corpses.



1952

### US ends occupation of Japan

Occupied by the United States-led Allied powers since the end of World War II, Japan finally becomes an independent state again when the San Francisco Peace Treaty comes into force.

1967

### Muhammad Ali refuses army induction

With the USA at war in Vietnam, the boxing champion cites religious reasons to forgo military service. He is stripped of his heavyweight title and convicted of draft evasion, but this is later overturned.







Cats first became domesticated as a way of protecting farmers' crops from rodents

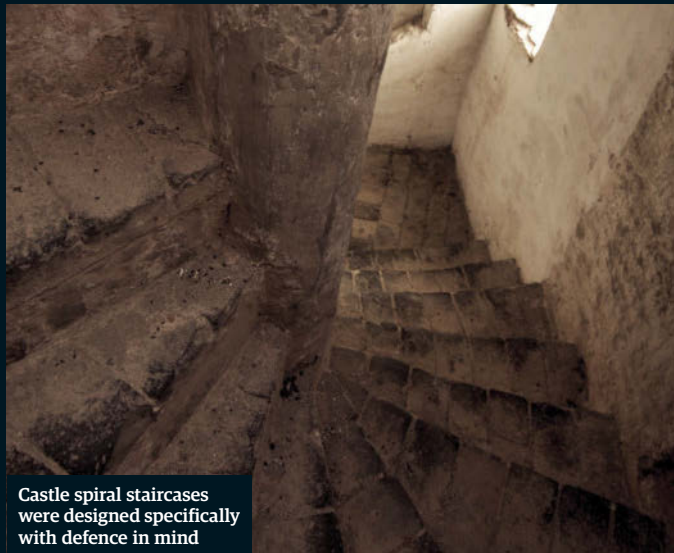
## When did we first start keeping cats as pets?

**Ffion Murray**

The earliest evidence of a domestic relationship between humans and cats came in 2004, when archaeologists found a wildcat that had been buried near a human about 9,500 years ago

in Cyprus. However, a more recent study has found that all domestic cats descended from a Middle Eastern wildcat and that the domestication process may have begun 12,000 years ago. Around that time, agriculture

began to flourish in the Middle East's Fertile Crescent, and farmers started storing their surplus crops. When mice got into the grain stores, it is thought that cats were encouraged in by farmers as a form of pest control.



Castle spiral staircases were designed specifically with defence in mind

## Why do spiral staircases in castles curve clockwise?

**Harry Robertson**

Although not all castle staircases spiral clockwise, the majority of them do, and the reason for this is all to do with defence. The design meant that attackers ascending the stairs would have their right-hand side against the interior curved wall. If they were right-handed, as most people are, then this would make it difficult for them to swing their sword. Meanwhile, defenders descending the stairs would have their right side against the outside wall, giving them plenty of room to use their weapon.



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1969



### French president resigns

Following his defeat in a referendum on governmental reform, President Charles de Gaulle resigns. During his 11 years in power, he had revolutionised French political institutions and founded the Fifth Republic.

1986



### Soviets admit nuclear disaster

It takes two days for the USSR to acknowledge the accident at the Chernobyl power station, even after increased radiation was detected in other countries.



1994



### CIA double agent jailed

Former CIA agent Aldrich Ames is sentenced to life imprisonment without parole after admitting to selling secrets to the Soviet Union and Russia. His actions are thought to have led to the deaths of at least ten US agents.

2001



### First space tourist lifts off

Billionaire businessman Dennis Tito pays £14 million to become the first paying passenger to go to space. The former NASA employee spent almost eight days aboard the International Space Station.







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Herbert fought all across the British front lines from the Somme to Gallipoli and Vimy Ridge

# The ring that survived Gallipoli and the Somme



### Jordan Vickers

The story of this ring begins back on my great-grandfather Herbert Vickers's 18th birthday in 1914. He received it as a present from his parents, and little did he know that it would remain with him through the darkest years of his life. He signed up to fight at the very beginning of World War I while on a Scout meeting. This came as a shock to his mother, who fainted as he walked up the drive in his new uniform. He was placed in the Army Service Corps and soon began training as he was taught how to

ride a horse and drive a gun carriage. One day he was taking part in an exercise in Seaton Carew when he witnessed two men get into difficulty while swimming in the sea. My great-grandfather - along with his friend, W Howard - then drove the horse and gun carriage into the water and brought the pair out alive.

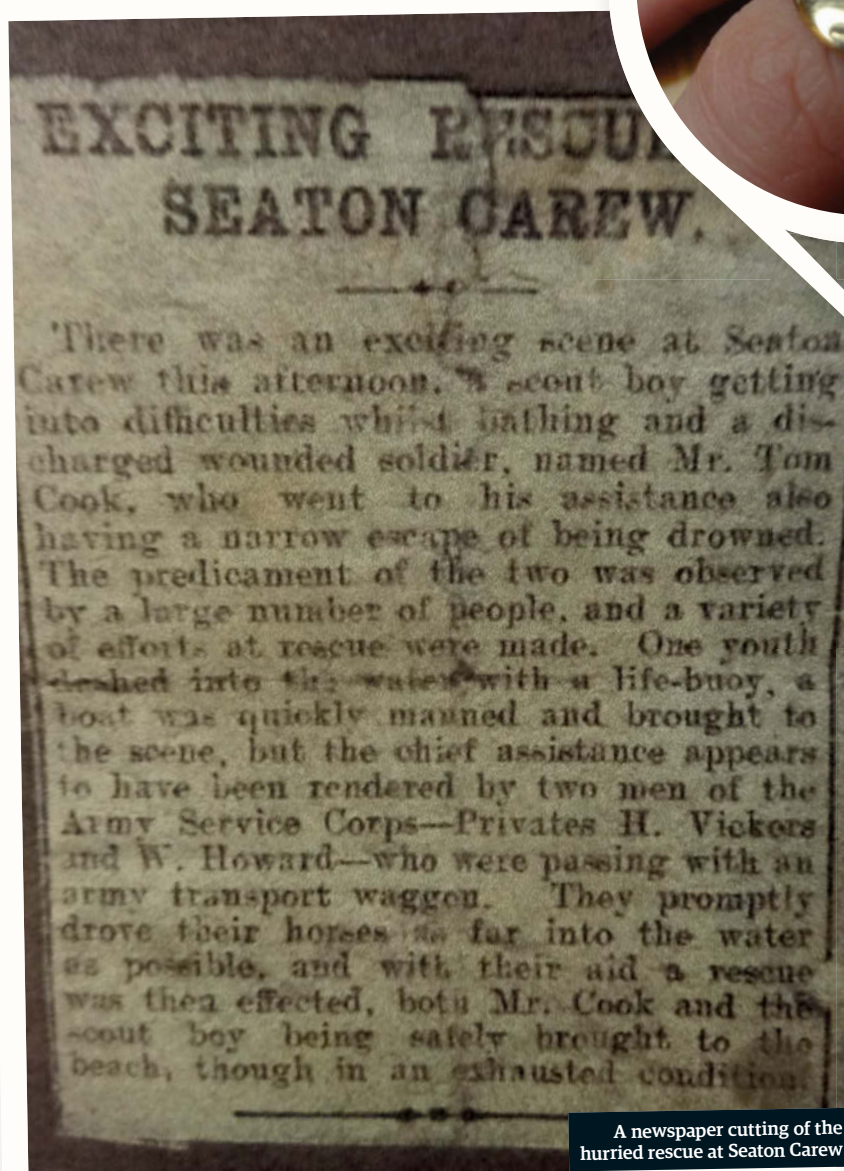
After the Army Service Corps, Herbert joined up with an infantry regiment and, of course, his faithful ring came with him. While with the infantry he served in various battles such as the Somme, Gallipoli and Vimy Ridge. He was also involved with fighting in Salonika. On the first day of the Somme, Herbert and his friend were

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This is a picture of the ring in 2016, almost 100 years after it was worn in the Battle of the Somme

Herbert looking proud in his military uniform



A newspaper cutting of the hurried rescue at Seaton Carew



sent into the teeth of the brutal German machine guns, and like so many others were shocked by how intact the German defences were. Men fell all around him and he and his friend were forced to take cover behind a rock. The German gunners concentrated their fire on his position, attempting to split the rock. By the time the shooting ceased, it was nightfall. If the two men hadn't stayed together to testify to the truth of the story, they would have been court-martialled for desertion and shot. As ever, his trusty ring remained on his finger.

I also know a bit about his experience in Turkey during the Gallipoli campaign. My grandfather remembers him talking a bit about desert life. He

would wake up in the morning to find scorpions in his boots and on his chest and also remembers how, during the bitter fighting, a lot of the men fell victim to heat stroke and disease. Herbert went through each of these battles with his ring on his finger but eventually he was injured by gas and also shrapnel, which became embedded in his neck, though he survived and fought through the rest of the war. He and his ring finally returned home to the north east of England in 1919. During World War II, he tried to sign up to fight again but was turned down due to his age and his injuries. Instead he volunteered to do work of national importance in the steel works.

My dad remembers him sitting by the fire and occasionally having to cough up gunk or inhale oxygen. This was due to the gas he took in during the war, which also sadly reduced his life by a good few years. My grandfather always said that when he came back from the war he was never scared of anything but rarely spoke of his experiences. Herbert Vickers died at the age of 75. His faithful ring now sits upon my dad's finger. It appears that anyone who has worn it since has ended up working back in Europe. Since becoming the keeper of the ring, my dad has worked and lived in several European countries, most notably France and Belgium, where the ring had already been before.

**Do you have any family stories to share?**

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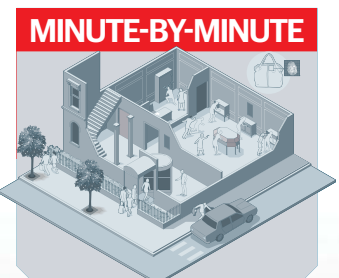
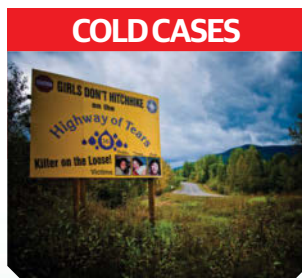
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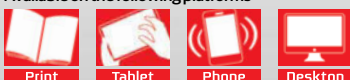


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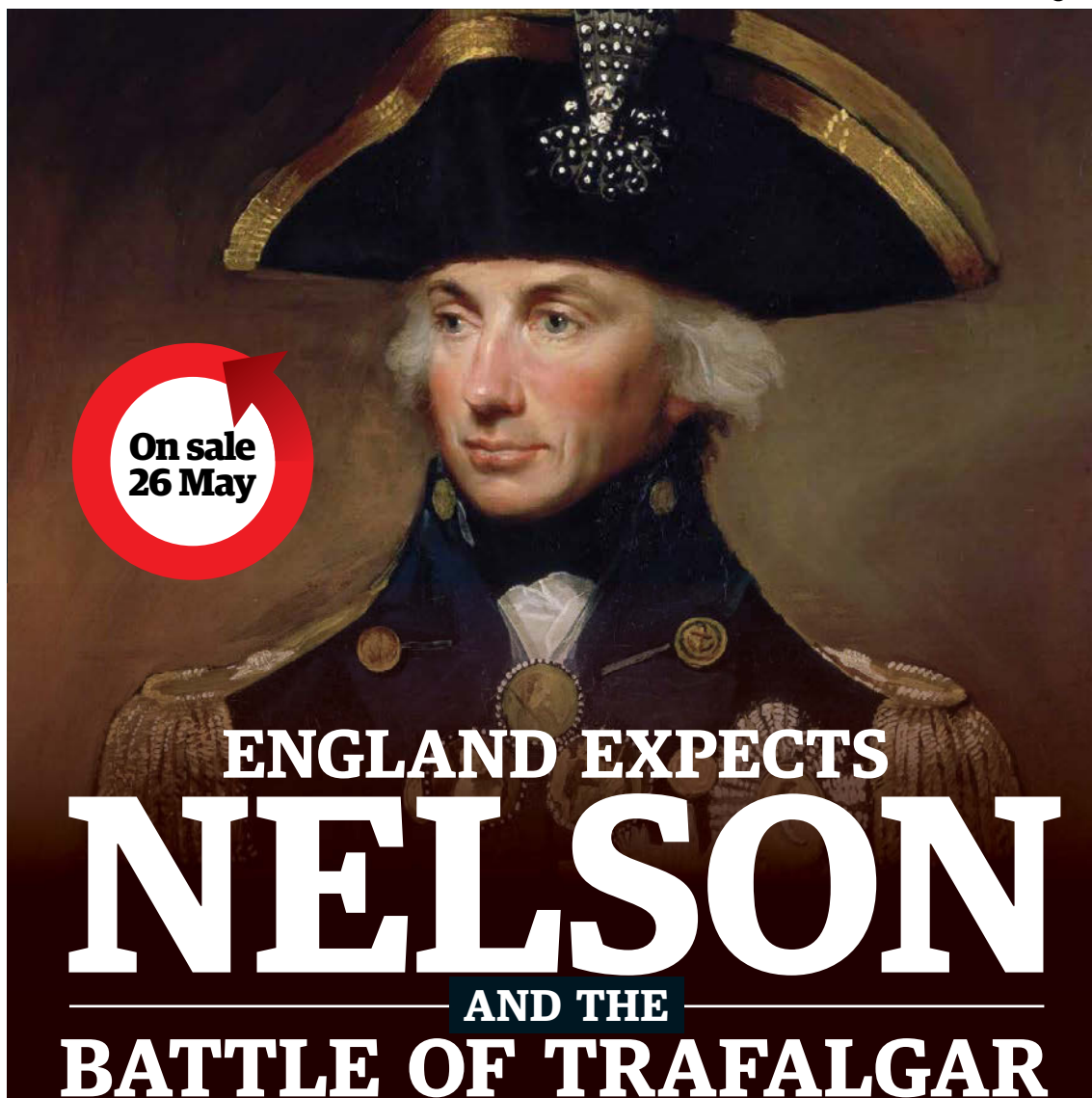
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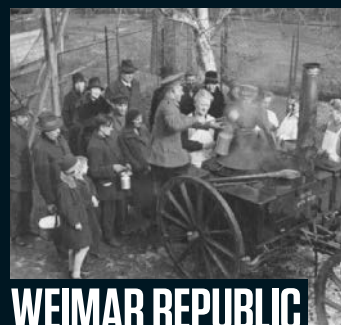
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# HISTORY HOLLYWOOD

## Fact versus fiction on the silver screen



### DEFIANCE

**Director:** Edward Zwick **Annaud** **Starring:** Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber, Jamie Bell **Country:** USA **Released:** 2008

Does this divisive World War II thriller defy the story it's based on?



**VERDICT** Artistic licence gets the better of this frustratingly inconsistent account

#### WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

**01** Daniel Craig plays Tuvia Bielski, the eldest of the four brothers. In the film, he is shown as having the skill to converse in Russian to a Soviet partisan leader, despite the real Bielski only actually being able to speak a broken form of the language at best.

**02** Strangely, Zus (Liev Schreiber) is portrayed in the film as being the second oldest brother, whereas in real life, Asael (Jamie Bell) is the second oldest sibling. The reason for this can only be to add to the distress caused by Zus's defection to the Soviet partisans.

**03** Worse still, there's little evidence Zus left the group to join the Soviet partisans, especially to the degree the film depicts. In the entirety of *Defiance*, the tension between the brothers is exaggerated, as is Tuvia's distress when he kills a Nazi-collaborating policeman.

**04** The climax of the film shows a battle between the Bielski group and a Wehrmacht tank - this never happened. The brothers and their followers were freedom fighters but never engaged a tank, preferring, and often limited to, sneakier methods.

#### WHAT THEY GOT RIGHT...

Tuvia's reputation as a fearless and respected leader who focused solely on saving Jewish lives is accurate, as is Zus's pure and vitriolic hatred of the Nazis. It is also accurate in its portrayal of the Bielski brothers smuggling other Jews out of the ghettos and into the dense Naliboki forest in search of a safe haven.







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